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Inter-Arab Affairs

'Abd-al-Majid, Klibi Give News Conference

NC0109105090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0932 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 1 Sep (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign mir ister, said that at its extraordinary session that ended in Cairo yesterday evening, the Arab League Council emphasized unequivocally its adherence to the need for the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the reinstatement of legitimacy. He said that the discussions demonstrated identity of views that the foreign military presence in the Gulf region is a result of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and that this presence must not be dealt with separately from the causes that led to it.

At a news conference held this morning by Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid and by Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the deliberations showed that the Arab delegations are very worried about the possibility that Arab solidarity and joint Arab action may be exposed to a serious setback that could destroy the Arab league and all joint Arab action establishments, unless a swift and fair settlement is reached, certain negative phenomena are removed, and subversive claims reiterated in certain Arab countries, which accompanied the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, are stopped.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid and Chedli Klibi answered questions at the news conference. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid pointed out that the Arab League ministerial council meeting, scheduled to convene on 10 September, is an extraordinary one. It will discuss the Arab League resolution passed in March providing for the return of the Arab League General Secretariat to Cairo. He said that Egypt made this proposal which was approved by 12 countries that are participating in the current meeting of the Arab foreign ministers.

Klibi said that the Arab League Charter provides for convening two ordinary sessions in March and September. He said that he proposed that the forthcoming ordinary session be convened in Tunis on 17 September.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid stressed that Egypt believes that any peaceful solution must be based on two points: complete withdrawal from Kuwait and the return of legitimacy. He said that Egypt will not accept any peaceful settlement that is not based on these premises, noting that most Arab countries have agreed on this.

Responding to a question on whether the time will come when Iraq's membership in the Arab League will be suspended, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid voiced his hope that things would not reach this point. He pointed out that the Arab League is not opposed to a peaceful solution. He said that most Arab countries want peace and to keep the disasters of war away from the region. He said that if there are peace proposals, it is better that they take place within the framework of the Arab League. He said that if there are overtures outside the Arab League framework and they do not include the extraordinary Arab summit resolutions, we in the Arab League framework will not agree to them. He noted that the Arab League Charter is unequivocal and condemns aggression and interference in domestic affairs, as does the United Nations Charter.

Asked if Iraq has replied to the emergency summit's resolutions, Chedli Klibi said that the Arab League Secretariat communicated the Cairo summit's resolution to all the Arab states. He added that he personally contacted Iraq requesting it to consider the resolution and respond to it. He added that this is one of the secretary general's basic duties and an observance of the Charter.

Asked if he has any information about the Libyan initiative, Klibi said that the only information he has is what has been reported in the media and that Libyan Revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi will make a speech today on the anniversary of the 1 September revolution and he will deal with this initiative.

Asked if there were sharp differences among the Arab delegations, the secretary general said that all the Arab states respect the Charter and that there were no sharp differences.

Regarding the Arab League's position on the non-Arab forces in the Gulf, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said: Article 51 of the UN Charter stipulates that each state has the right to request help and support to defend itself and Paragraph Seven of the Arab League's Charter stipulates the same. The Arab summit responded to the appeal by Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states for Arab forces. It approved and carried out the request on the basis that it is a guaranteed right for self-defense. There is nothing against such a request in the Arab League Charter or in the UN Charter.

'Abd-al-Majid explained that Paragraph Two of the emergency summit's Resolution Number 159 [as received] stresses that all measures taken against Iraq will be abolished if Iraq agrees to withdraw its forces from the Kuwaiti teritories and reinstate the legitimacy there.

Asked if a time limit has been set for the peace efforts, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said: No specific period has been determined for carrying out these efforts. We would very much like to execute them. However, it is natural that there should be a limit to our patience and we must face matters seriously and pragmatically. We do not accept procrastination and stalling. The matter is one of the eagerness of all the peace-loving states to end the invasion of Kuwait, restore matters to normal, and ensure stability in the Gulf region, the Middle East, and the whole world.

At the end of the conference, the foreign minister expressed his hope that the Arab states and UN peace efforts will be successful, that an end will be put to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, and that legitimacy will be reinstated there.

Dr. 'Abd al-Majid opened the news conference saying: Egypt called for convening this extraordinary session of the Arab League Council to hear the secretary general's report on the implementation of Resolution 195 issued by the recent Arab summit.

'Abd-al-Majid added: This call comes within the framework of Egypt's desire to exploit every possible opportunity to find a peaceful solution to the current difficult crisis in the Arab Gulf that resulted from the Iraqi invasion of the fraternal state of Kuwait and it is part of its continuous efforts to contain the Arab disagreements and disputes among the Arab states.

The foreign minister added: There were lengthy discussions during the meetings. The Arab states that attended the meetings reiterated their commitment to search for a peaceful solution to the current crisis in the Gulf within the framework of the Arab League. He further said: The statement issued after yesterday's meeting stresses that any Arab initiative to resolve the current crisis in the Gulf must emanate from the provisions of the Arab League Charter and traditions of joint Arab action and must be based on the Cairo Arab summit Resolution 195.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid emphasized that all of the Arab states that attended this session expressed their hope that the fraternal Arab states that did not attend the Arab League meetings, would participate in the session because their absence from these meetings is a real loss to joint Arab action and the Arab League.

He said that the delegations were very eager to crystallize a unified Arab stand and that all the Arab League member states would participate in formulating this unified stand. He said that there is a consensus not to support any initiative that is not based on Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of legitimate regime to Kuwait.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said that the Arab League's extraordinary session has welcomed the UN secretary general's Amman meeting with Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of fraternal Iraq. He noted that this support stems from the Arab League's adherence to a peaceful solution and rejection of the military alternative because of the losses the Arab states will suffer as a result of resorting to the use of force.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid added that the participating states affirmed their concern for fraternal Iraq's safety and security as much as they are concerned for Kuwait's independence and sovereignty. They also emphasized their commitment to the restoration of Kuwait's legitimate system of government. Their attendance of this session must not be interpreted as an expression of antagonism or enmity toward fraternal Iraq or any other fraternal Arab state that has not participated in this session.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister said that the participating states stressed the importance of halting media campaigns and countercampaigns among the Arab states and emphasized that any differences in opinion or in policy among the Arab states must not lead to confrontation and estrangement.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said that there was a consensus that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and its results have reflected negatively on the Palestinian cause and the intifadah in the occupied Arab territories.

He indicated that the conference issued five resolutions on Iraq's aggression against the state of Kuwait, on Iraq's detention of other states' nationals, on the diplomatic and consular missions accredited to Iraq, on the conditions of the civilians as a result of the occupation, and on compensating the state of Kuwait for the losses resulting from the Iraqi invasion.

Arab Trade Unions To Boycott U.S., UK Ships

LD3109164490 Paris International Service in French 1230 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] In Tunis, the Central Council of Federation of Arab Trade Unions, which has held a two-day session, has taken a stand calling for the boycott of all ships belonging to countries which are at the moment involved in the blockade against Iraq. Details from Rida Boughezi:

[Boughezi] This boycott will specifically take the form of a ban on the unloading of U.S. and British ships in Arab ports, and the refusal to refuel planes belonging to these countries at airports. The Federation of Arab Trade unions, which represents more than 15 million Arab workers, on the other hand describes as a U.S. dictat, the resolutions of the UN Security Council on the Gulf crisis. It also rejects the decisions of the Cairo Arab summit, and reproaches the encouragement of Arab division.

This Arab trade union meeting took place in an atmosphere of tension, particularly marked by differences at the moment of voting on the final resolution. The Kuwaiti, Egyptian, and Syrian delegations withdrew from the meeting hall in protest against a resolution described as biased and partisan. The resolution, which does not clearly demand the withdrawal of the Iraqi Army from Kuwait, paradoxically talks about the right of the Kuwaiti people to make their political choice in conformity with their will, and without the intervention of any outsider, wherever that outsider might come from.

Al-Huss Meets Klibi in Cairo, Makes Statement

NC3008162890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Lebanon expects the Tripartite Arab Committee to issue a statement on the international fund for helping Lebanon. The committee fixed 10 and 11 September as the dates for establishing this fund.

The MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY reported from Cairo that Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss today met with Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi and Arab Committee member Lakhdar Ibrahimi. Al-Huss said that the discussions at the two meetings dealt with the current Arab

conditions, the situation in Lebanon, and arrangements for convening the Arab foreign ministers council in Cairo tonight. Al-Huss added that the Lebanese Government has recalled its ambassador to Kuwait for consultations. He emphasized that the Lebanese ambassador's return does not mean closing the embassy.

In another statement which he made in Cairo, al-Huss said that the condition of the Lebanese diplomats [in Kuwait] was unsatisfactory. Therefore, he added, we decided to recall them for consultations. The prime minister also said that Ambassador 'Adnan Badra and a number of diplomats are scheduled to return to Lebanon.

Meets With Tripartite Committee

NC3108135590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss met with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali, members of the tripartite Arab ministerial committee, in Cairo this morning. The meeting was also attended by Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi and the Algerian ambassador in Cairo. The discussion dealt with the current Lebanese situation in light of the Chamber of Deputies' ratification of the constitutional reforms in accordance with the al-Ta'if agreement. The discussion also dealt with the establishment of an international and Arab fund for reconstruction and development in Lebanon.

Prime Minister al-Huss also held talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', which were followed by talks with Rashid 'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi, the foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates.

Asked by Arab and foreign correspondents about Lebanon's position on the Gulf events, Prime Minister al-Huss affirmed Lebanon's rejection of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and its abidance by the resolutions of the emergency Arab summit conference which called for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

Statement by Committee Members

LD0109012890 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2300 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 31 Aug (SPA)—The foreign ministers of the tripartite higher Arab committee entrusted with resolving the Lebanese problem have issued the following statement:

On the fringes of the emergency meeting of the Arab League Ministerial Council, convened in Cairo on 830 and 31 August 1990, His Excellency Dr. Abdellatif Filali, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Morocco; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; and His Excellency Ambassador Abdelhamid Adjali, representing His Excellency Sid Ahmed Ghozali, foreign minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria conferred with His Excellency Salim al-Huss, the Lebanese prime minister, and in the presence of Mr. Lakhdar Ibrahim, the tripartite higher Arab committee's envoy to Lebanon.

The meeting was an opportunity to examine the latest developments in the Lebanese scene, particularly those dealing with the direct and indirect negative repercussions resulting from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Means for dealing with such repercussions and results were also examined.

For its part, the committee has reaffirmed to the [Lebanese] prime minister its previous commitment and pledges, whether within the framework of Arab summits or its own statements.

The Ministerial Committee set up by the tripartite Arab committee entrusted with the Lebanese issue, afterward held a meeting at which it reviewed the current conditions in Lebanon in the light of evaluating what was discussed at the meeting with Prime Minister Salim al-Huss and in light of the painful events taking place in the area as a result of the Iraqi aggression against the State of Kuwait and the Kuwaiti people.

In view of the enormous harm that had been inflicted on Lebanon as a result of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the tripartite committee calls upon the Arab states and the international community to give urgent assistance to the Lebanese Government so it can redress that harm.

On the other hand, the Ministerial Committee expressed satisfaction with the important step taken by the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies at the historic session convened on 21 August 1990, at which it approved the constitutional reforms which resulted from the al-Ta'if agreement.

In this connection, the Ministerial Committee expresses confidence that this step will have positive results, namely, to realize the unity of the Lebanese people, establish peace in Lebanon, secure the evacuation of the occupation forces in the south, enable the Lebanese state to exercise its sovereignty by means of its own forces, and strengthen the full and complete independence of the Lebanese Republic.

The committee expresses its deep regret over the deterioration of the economic situation in Lebanon as a result of continuous divisions and rebellion on the one hand, and persistent internecine killings on the other.

On instructions from the leaders of the Arab higher tripartite committee, the Ministerial Committee affirms its adherence to its commitments resulting from the resolutions of the Casablanca and Baghdad summits, and the various statements issued by the committee since its inception.

The Ministerial committee also discussed the steps taken toward founding an international fund to help Lebanon, and the committee's call for a meeting to this end to be held in Saudi Arabia on 10 and 11 September.

The committee affirms its commitment to this project and its resolve to hold a meeting of the foreign ministers

of the tripartite committee in October to fix a new date for the meeting related to the setting up of the fund.

The committee has charged Mr. Lakhdar Ibrahimi with undertaking the necessary international contacts with the various concerned sides to continue work to prepare for the meeting in question.

In the meantime, the committee will circulate the organization and internal status of the fund.

Acting Arab League Secretary-General Named

LD0409071790 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Mr. Chedli Klibi informed Arab leaders of his resignation from the post of Arab League secretary-general yesterday. We have learned that this resignation was announced to the permanent delegates to the Arab League in Tunis.

Informed sources stated that Chedli Klibi informed Tunisian official circles of his resignation before breaking the news to the permanent delegates, because he is Tunisia's candidate to the post of secretary-general.

Informed sources also said that Mr. As'ad al-As'ad, who is a Lebanese and the longest serving assistant secretary-general, will hold the post of acting secretary-general of the Arab League until a new secretary-general is appointed.

Chedli Klibi has served as secretary-general of the Arab League since 1979.

Egyptian Sources Explain Klibi Resignation

JN0409070090 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Cairo has not yet commented on Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi's resignation. Egyptian sources, however, indicated that Klibi's resignation came in the wake of a fierce argument between him and Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal at the recent Arab foreign ministers' conference in Cairo. Al-Faysal accused Klibi of not carrying out the mission entrusted to him when he failed to know the position of the Arab countries which expressed reservations or abstained from voting during the emergency summit on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. According to these sources, Chedli Klibi was again asked by the Arab foreign ministers during their recent conference to carry out this mission and inform the member states of the final position of the other member states as soon as possible. This appears to be the main reason for his resignation.

Moreover, the campaign unleashed by the Egyptian and Gulf newspapers on Klibi's stand regarding the Iraqi invasion as well as the stand of Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali was one of the main reasons for Klibi's decision to resign.

It is well known that Cairo has called for an Arab League session on 10 September to implement the decision to transfer the Arab League's headquarters to Cairo. According to these sources, Cairo may nominate a secretary-general for the Arab League, but this will depend on the contacts the Egyptian Government will hold within the next few days.

Klibi Reportedly Criticized

NC0109150090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] According to press reports from Cairo, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal have strongly criticized Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi during the Arab foreign ministers' conference in Cairo. Klibi was criticized because he failed to talk about the negative stands of certain Arab states which boycotted the conference. Iraq, Tunisia, Libya, Jordan, the Republic of Yemen, Sudan, and the PLO did not participate in the conference.

Palestinian Affairs

Khalaf Outlines Saddam's Settlement Terms

NC0409141490 Paris AFP in English 1155 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Nicosia, Sept 4 (AFP)—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn is now prepared to negotiate a partial withdrawal from Kuwait but will never allow the al-Sabah family to return to power there, a senior PLO official has disclosed.

Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf], the Palestine Liberation Organization's second-in-command, told the French newspaper Liberation that President Husayn sought a negotiated settlement to the Gulf crisis —but not one that "could be interpreted as a personal defeat for him." [passage omitted]

President Husayn, according to Abu-Iyad in the interview appearing in Paris on Tuesday [4 September], "is not sure that even if he withdraws from Kuwait and frees the hostages, Iraq will not be attacked despite everything."

But the Iraqi leader is still ready to negotiate, although he will not relinquish his claim to the Kuwaiti island of Bubiyan nor the northern region of al-Mitla', which Baghdad now calls Saddamiyat al-Mitla' and has been declared part of the southern Iraqi province of al-Basrah.

Iraq on Tuesday began a 30 million dollar project to carry potable water from the Shatt al-Arab waterway to the al-Mitla' region. [passage omitted]

President Husayn is also adamant that the exiled amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, never return to power, according to Mr. Abu-Iyad, whose organization has shown itself sympathetic to Iraq in the current crisis.

Shaykh Jabir and much of the Kuwaiti ruling family sought refuge in Saudi Arabia during the invasion, where they are still recognized internationally as the legitimate Kuwaiti government.

Abu-Iyad said Saudi Arabia would probably countenance a partial Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait but would surely insist on the restoration of the al-Sabah family.

"Once Iraq withdraws from Kuwait," Abu-Iyad added, "the return of the royal family should be discussed among Arabs. Kuwait has to recognize that Iraq has interests there, just as there are Syrian interests in Lebanon. It's the only way to reach a solution." [passage omitted]

Disavows Comments

NC0409191090 Paris AFP in English 1902 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Tunis, Sept 4 (AFP)—A senior PLO official here Tuesday denied he had said in a French newspaper interview that Iraq was now prepared to negotiate a partial withdrawal from Kuwait.

Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf], the Palestine Liberation Organisation's second-in-command, told Agence France-Presse that he regretted the newspaper had attributed such comments to him.

The newspaper Liberation quoted him as saying Iraqi President Saddam Husayn was ready to negotiate a partial withdrawal from Kuwait but would never allow the exiled al-Sabah ruling family to return to the emirate.

The PLO is a close ally of Iraq, although it has criticized the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on August 2.

In Baghdad, the official Iraqi News Agency reasserted Tuesday that "Kuwait is a vital part of Iraqi territory and will remain so for ever," in reaction to the newspaper report.

'Arafat Speaks on 1,000th Day of Intifadah

JN0409111690 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 4 Sep 90 Second Edition p 12

[Excerpts] Tunis (Agencies)—PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has addressed an important message to Palestinians on the 1,000th day of the blessed intifadah. In his message, 'Arafat reviewed the important political developments and the current situation in the Gulf following the influx of the invasion forces into the region. Following is the text of the message:

[Passage omitted] We are celebrating the intifadah today while our faith and confidence in victory is stronger than ever before. The enemies thought that the intifadah, which marks its 1,000th day today, was a passing event which could be suppressed and liquidated in a few days, weeks, or months. But here is our intifadah today standing gigantic, lofty, and proud for all free and honorable men in the world. The intifadah has imposed itself on the ground and raised the banner of victory for our people in their defiance of the occupiers whose dilemma is becoming more complicated day by day and who are retreating in every confrontation. [passage omitted]

Here is the 1,000th day of the intifadah passing at a decisive and historic moment affecting the destiny and existence of our Arab nation. The rattle of foreign armor is heard on the land of the Arabs in a new crusade which is unprecedented in our past or modern history.

This enormous buildup of fleets, mass destruction weapons, and foreign forces forebodes the gravest dangers and disasters for our Arab and Islamic nation and the Third World countries and carries the danger of the outbreak of an all-out war which could liquidate everything. No country would be spared its effects and results. We now ask this question to those who inquire about the Palestinian position. We ask: Where does Israel stand in this confrontation; what is the role of the Zionist occupation forces in this confrontation, and where do these forces, which occupy Jerusalem, stand now? Let the one who dares to put this question to any Palestinian, fear God. We can only be in the trench hostile to Zionism and its imperialist allies who are today mobilizing their tanks, planes, and all their advanced and sophisticated war machine against our Arab nation, not in defense of this or that party, but solely to protect their interests as they themselves openly announce day and night.

Out of our precise understanding of the seriousness of the event and the gravity of the crucial and historic circumstances through which we as a nation, culture, and existence are passing, the PLO moved from the first moment of the outbreak of the Gulf crisis to find a solution based on a pan-Arab stand. We patiently persevered to formulate an Arab framework to preserve the dignity and rights of all sides. We were about to clinch this formula, which would have achieved an Arab solution, were it not for what happened at the recent summit in Cairo. Our proposal, which was backed by many Arab states, was ignored and brushed aside. This regrettably opened the door for a foreign presence and for the attempt to impose foreign solutions. The situation became more complicated and dangerous. Washington began beating the war drums and clearly announcing that its aim was to dictate its policy and conditions which serve its interests and hegemony over the region.

Despite all that, we have continued and are still continuing our efforts which are based on principles, foremost of which is keeping foreign forces out of Arab territories and tackling the Kuwait issue within an Arab framework which safeguards the rights, interests and dignity of all parties.

We, the Arab nation, have never sought nor seek to attack anybody. The concerns of the Arab nation are the concerns of all of us. In like manner, the concerns of the Kuwaiti brothers are our concerns. That is why we seek to resolve the problem within an Arab framework. We have reached significant points in this regard. However, at the same time we believe that we, as an Arab nation

living in the greater Arab homeland extending from the Ocean to the Gulf, should have the final say regarding this homeland. It is our homeland. We are defending its sovereignty. And on its frontiers, we are warding off aggression, any aggression coming from any direction.

That is why the Arab initiative, which we and some Arab brothers have drawn up, was introduced. This initiative tackles withdrawals from Kuwait, Iraq, Iran, Palestine, Lebanon, and the Golan. Of special significance here is the fact that this current crisis has gone beyond its regional context and become an international crisis that has opened the door for discussing all outstanding regional issues, first and foremost of which is the issue of the rights of the Palestinian people whose cause will remain the crux and core of the regional conflict. Failing to resolve this cause will remain a source of tension that will affect the entire world. The initiative also underscores the importance of replacing U.S. and foreign troops with Arab and international forces. Once this happens, all parties would be held responsible for the implementation of the international resolutions passed.

The international dealings related to the Gulf crisis have revealed the hypocrisy and duplicity characterizing the position of the United States, the Western nations, and others. Washington is shedding crocodile tears over international conventions, alleging that it is defending international legitimacy and showing enthusiasm to hold successive sessions of the UN Security Council to impose a blockade on Iraq. To achieve this objective, it is seeking to subjugate the United Nations and the international will to serve its interests as well as those of Israel. We have never seen such enthusiasm for the enforcement and implementation of the principles and rules of international legitimacy. We have never witnessed such eagerness for enforcement of the UN Security Council resolutions on the Palestine question and the Palestinian people. Nay, Washington used to confirm daily its total bias toward Israeli aggressive and expansionist drive. It hastened to use the veto right to obstruct the passage of any draft resolution blaming Israel or condemning it and its crimes. It fought to prevent the dispatch of a fact-finding mission [to the occupied territories] to investigate the continuous Israeli crimes against our unarmed masses and also against our Islamic and Christian sanctities. We would like to draw attention to the fact that if the United States is interested in its interests and oil, we too are interested in seeing Arab oil serve Arab interests. However, we in our capacity as an Arab and Islamic nation and as faithful Christians are more interested in Islamic and Christian sanctities in Palestine.

O brothers; O beloved ones: While marking the passing of 1,000 days since the outbreak of the intifadah, we are looking forward to the future with greater confidence, as our assessment of the past 1,000 days shows that we have scored numerous accomplishments; that we have forced the issue as one of existence, life, [word indistinct], and a solution for all parties. The convoys of martyrs, wounded, and prisoners, as well as the immense sacrifices that we have made, have created and accumulated our people's victories. They have laid laurels on the heads of heroic women, men, and children.

After 1,000 glorious days of mass struggle, the occupiers' authority has been undermined. The people's authority on our national soil has grown into prominence. After 1,000 days of heroic feats and mass miracles which inscribed the most glorious pages in our nation's history, we have come closer than any time before to the extrication of our people's right to freedom and national independence. After 1,000 days of resistance, our people's cause has begun to force itself on the agenda of the world conscience and international community as an item that must be dealt with urgently. As for Israel, its isolation is tightening, its ruling establishments are pursuing policies based on ideas of ancient times which have long since disappeared. These ideas have long been abandoned by the peoples of the world who are heading for further freedom and democracy. The rapid developments of the Gulf crisis have dwarfed Israel and exposed its weaknesses. The manifestations of weakness, languor, and horror before the Palestinian and Arab will have become apparent.

Of a truth ye are stronger than they because of the terror in their hearts sent by God. This is because they are men devoid of understanding. They will not fight you even together, except in fortified townships, or from behind walls. Strong is their fighting spirit amongst themselves: Thou wouldst think they were united, but their hearts are divided. [Koranic verses]

O masses of our great people. O heroes of the Unified National Leadership, strike units, and popular committees.

O audacious knights in detention camps.

O struggler youths, women, workers, farmers, students, businessmen, professionals, academics, craftsmen, and national institutions and societies.

O steadfast in southern lebanon who are waging jihad and guarding the torch of the revolution.

O our great Arab nation.

Our intifadah has foiled the enemy's wager since it has continued, intensified, grown into a giant, escalated, and knocked on the doors of victory through true jihad and massive sacrifices manifested in thousands of wounded and the torture of detainees. This consolidates our belief and confidence in God, the people, the revolution, and victory. At the same time, it places a great and growing responsibility to preserving and maintaining the accomplishments of the intifadah, the revolution, and the people, and developing them all for the day of final victory for Jerusalem, the capital of the Palestinian state.

They see the Day indeed as a far-off event: But we see it quite near. [Koranic verse]

Therefore, I repeat and entrust you to strengthen the edifice of national unity which guarantees the continuity and victory of the struggle. This requires strengthening the masses' adherence to calls of the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah and reactivating the popular committees. It is also important to win the cooperation of all notables, figures, and forces to run daily life. Moreover, it is important to concentrate on establishing reform and more benevolent committees, and strengthening those already in existence; reactivating the committees and competent organs in the fields of agriculture and health; reviving and reactivating committees of security, relief work, and supply; stressing the importance of home industries, land reclamation, the boycotting of Israeli goods, and public education.

Let us strengthen our strike against the occupiers. Steadfastness, steadfastness in resistance. Escalate, escalate the intifadah.

Let the streets of our cities, towns, and refugee camps roar with public indignation manifesting itself in demonstrations and rallies. Let this gigantic popular wrath interact with the wrath of the serious exploding crisis currently sweeping the region and add to the annals of history a glorious new page for our nation, our history, and our beliefs.

After one thousand glorious days of the intifadah, O brothers and my beloved ones, we say confidently that the Palestinian state is a stone's throw away. The stone has become a rocket, and the intifadah has become a nation's lifestyle.

Victory is certain, is certain.

Dawn will break, will break.

God's Good Pleasure was on the Believers when they swore fealty to thee under the tree: He knew what was in their hearts, and He sent down tranquility to them; and He rewarded them with a speedy victory. And another favor will He bestow, which ye do love,—help from God and a speedy victory. [Koranic verses]

It is a revolution until victory.

Pro-Saddam, Anti-U.S. Slogans Shown at March

JN0309105490 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 Sep 90 p 3

[Report by Maryam M. Shahin]

[Text] Amman—In commemoration of the 999th day of the Palestinian intifada 700 children marched through the streets of Jabal Amman Sunday [2 September] morning as U.N. Chief Perez de Cuellar told reporters, "I hope that what is happening now will open the eyes of those who are against attacking frontally the problem of Palestine."

"A sin... doesn't justify another sin," said de Cuellar, referring to the Israeli occupation of Arab territory during a press conference held in another part of the city simultaneously with the protest march.

As children read out and later presented letters to the American and then Iraqi embassies expressing displeasure of the official policy in one and support in times of need in the other, the intifada mood was largely overshadowed.

In a symbolic gesture of solidarity demonstrators offered bags of powdered milk to the Iraqi ambassador as he received their message at the gate of the Iraqi embassy. The demonstration, which was organised by the women's chapter of the union for the Arab Nation Committee was the second children's rally held this week.

The issue of American and other foreign intervention in the Gulf, and as a consequence tremendous popular support for Iraqi leader Saddam Husayn, have largely overshadowed the events in the occupied territories.

Just as West Bankers had expressed themselves ready to send foodstuffs to Iraq earlier last month, the intifada demonstration turned into an anti-American, pro-Iraqi rally.

"Long live Abu-'Uday," chanted the children in unison referring to Saddam Husayn by his nom de guerre, followed by chants of "America is the head of the snake."

"We are here to tell the Americans to stop the blockade," one 12-year-old said explaining what he was doing at the rally.

Palestinian, Jordanian and Iraqi flags were prominent at the one-hour demonstration; photographs of King Husayn outnumbered those of Saddam Husayn, two to one, and, curiously for a demonstration commemorating the intifada, no posters of Yasir 'Arafat were raised.

While a number of children chanted pro-'Arafat slogans mention of the PLO or the Palestine president was minimal.

While many of the mothers and school teachers often tried to guide the theme of the slogans the "popular" responses overshadowed the guided ones. "America is the head of the snake" and "long live Saddam" were the most frequently and enthusiastically repeated slogans at the rally which was led for the most part by a ten-year boy as he shouted slogans into the loudspeaker.

Some observers believe the Palestinian intifada, in which close to 1,000 Palestinians have been killed or the news coverage thereof, has been badly undermined by the recent events in the Gulf and that the almost unequivocal support by Palestinians everywhere of the Iraqi government may hurt their "international standing."

Many Palestinians see the situation differently, however. "Yes we are supporting Saddam Husayn and King Husayn now because Yasir 'Arafat moderation policy did not work," said one Palestinian who has lived in Jordan since 1948. "We watched as the PLO made concession after concession and then the U.S. stopped talking to him; that was his reward for moderation—not a state for his people but a breakdown of talks," he added.

"The U.S. and the West have shown that they only understand fear and respect 'tough men and bullies' as they call Saddam; that's why we are cheering Saddam because somewhere, somehow he represents a flicker of hope for those for whom all hope has died," said another commentator Sunday [2 September] as the 999th day of the uprising drew to a close.

Meeting on U.S. 'Threat' to Pan-Arab Security

JN0309072390 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 3 Sep 90 Second Edition p 1

[Report by Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] A high-ranking Palestinian source has said that some Gulf states continue to expel Palestinian workers and some PLO cadres.

In an exclusive statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, the source said that this action by these states is encouraged by some Arab regimes that have adopted a hostile stand toward fraternal Iraq.

The source explained that the Fatah Central Committee will meet under Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, in Tunis within 24 hours to discuss several issues including the Gulf crisis and the U.S. and Western military presence in the Arabian Peninsula and some Gulf states in view of the blatant threat this presence poses to pan-Arab security.

PFLP Spokesman Denies Damascus Office Closed

JN0209181590 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] There are conflicting reports on the location of the headquarters of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP]: whether they are still in Damascus or have been transferred to Baghdad. Palestinian sources had mentioned that PFLP headquarters were recently moved from Damascus to Baghdad in view of Syria's stance on the Gulf crisis. Baghdad radio reported that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn today received PFLP Secretary General George Habash with whom he discussed the state of Arab affairs and current developments in the Gulf.

The announcement of George Habash's arrival in Baghdad coincided with a statement by the Front in Amman today on the occasion of the 1,000th day of the Palestinian intifadah in the occupied territories. In the statement, the PFLP announced its support for Iraq in its confrontation with U.S. arrogance, and called for a boycott of U.S. interests.

A short while ago, our reporter in Damascus informed us that the official PFLP spokesman in Damascus said that there are no differences with Syria and that PFLP offices have not been closed by the authorities. It has been ascertained that the offices in Damascus are carrying out their work normally.

Algeria

'Arafat Arrives in Algiers, Met by Premier

LD0309154590 Algiers APS in Arabic 1532 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Algiers, 3 Sep (APS)—The president of the state of Palestine, Yasir 'Arafat, arrived in Algiers today. He was met at Houari Boumedienne international airport by Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche and the ambassador of the State of Palestine in Algiers.

Discusses Crisis With Bendjedid

LD0309202890 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] The Gulf crisis and its development, and the need to find an Arab solution. This crisis was the center of talks which [Bendjedid] the president of the Republic held with PLO President Yasir 'Arafat. The talks were attended by the foreign minister, the diplomatic affairs adviser, and Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf], member of the Fatah Central Committee.

After the meeting, 'Arafat talked about the meeting.

[Begin 'Arafat recording] I was happy to have this meeting with Mr. President at this crucial time through which the Arab nation is passing, particularly regardinf the explosive Gulf crisis. It was one reason for the move on the part of all the good Arab forces to keep the explosion from taking place, to work to prevent it, and to make every effort in this direction.

I can say with pride that we have recently realized some progress in removing the fuse to the war which would wreck the entire future of our Arab nation. I explained to the president the results of the visit I recently made to Paris, and the talks I held with the French prime minister; and prior to that, the tour of the Arab area, including my recent meeting with President Saddam; and before that, the visit of the Palestinian envoys to the rest of the Arab region.

God willing, we will continue the joint effort - Palestinian, Algerian, and Arab—for the sake of [words indistinct], for the sake of the future and pan-Arab security.

Further on Talks With President

LD0409135790 Algiers APS in English 1040 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Algiers, 4 September (APS)—"We shall pay a high price for any solution of the Gulf crisis that will be taken outside the Arab will. This is why we are continuing the Arab Palestinian effort to preserve the security of the Arab nation", the president of the State of Palestine, Yasir 'Arafat, declared at the end of his talks with President Chadli Bendjedid.

"The deployment of foreign troops and their arsenal of destruction in the Gulf area can result in a great danger which does not only threaten the countries of the area but the security of the Arab nation as a whole", he added. "The actions of all Arab peace loving countries are aimed at avoiding any explosion in the area", President Yasir 'Arafat continued. "I can already say that we have made some progress in order to move away the spectre of war which threatens our Arab nation," he underlined.

Concerning the talks he had with President Chadli Bendjedid, President 'Arafat said they centered on the results of his tour and the tour of Palestinian delegations in a number of Arab capitals and in France.

Answering a question on the bases of the Palestinian initiative to find a solution to the Gulf crisis, the president of the State of Palestine said it is an Arab initiative which had the support of a number of Arab leaders during the Cairo summit which stated that any settlement must be the result of an Arab effort and that any other solution cannot be in the interest of the Arab nation.

Cabinet Discusses Language, Accountants, Reforms

LD0509110290 Algiers APS in English 1017 GMT 5 Sep 90

[Text] Algiers, 5/9/90 (APS)—The Council of Ministers met Tuesday [4 September] here under the chairmanship of President Chadli Bendjedid.

The Council of Ministers examined and adopted an amendment concerning the use of the national language. This amendment is aimed at implementing the constitutional principles in this field and providing the necessary conditions for the use of the national language in the state administration, institutions and establishments.

During the debate, the head of state insisted once again on the necessity to make every effort to develop [word indistinct] of the national language at the level of all the state institutions and as a means of expression of the national sovereignty.

The Council of Ministers further heard a communication related to the profession of accountants. In this context, it insisted on the importance to be given to this profession in the era of reforms.

Moreover, the Council of Ministers heard a communication on the implementation of reforms in the agricultural sector mainly the implementation of the process of cleansing of the sector and which is aimed at ensuring better relations between the land and the producers.

In this context, the president of the republic put the stress on the necessity to guarantee the implementation of the operation in transparence and serenity by associating all the concerned peasants in the implementation of the operation.

This operation of cleansing of the sector in consolidation of the rights of peasants is part of a perspective of stability and unity of the peasantry so as to reach the

expected efficiency from the agricultural development and deepen the fundamental values of society.

New Party, Movement of Islamic Renewal, Founded

LD0509040490 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] A new political party has been born, called the Movement of the Islamic Nahdha [Movement of Islamic Renewal] led by Shaykh Abdellah Jabellah. This party, which has requested legalization, says it has adopted the path of global change inspired by the thought of the Muslim Brotherhood.

Egypt

Export Oil Prices Cut by Five Dollars 30 Aug

LD3108163990 Vienna OPECNA in English 1605 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 31 Aug. 90 (OPECNA)—Egypt announced here Thursday [30 August] that it had cut its export prices for all oil blends by five dollars a barrel.

According to a senior official with the state-owned Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation, the cut was effective from 30 August and will be valid until further notice.

Industry sources here said that the country, which produces around 900,000 b/d [barrels per day] of crude, over half of which is exported, has been suffering badly as a result of the Gulf crisis.

The drop in prices takes the Khalig el-Zeit and Ras el-Bihar blends to 25.80 dollars, the Gulf of Suez crude to 25.50 dollars, Belayim to 24.65 dollars, Ras Badran to 23.50 dollars and Ras Ghareb to 23.20 dollars.

President of Uganda Arrives in Alexandria 2 Sep

NC0209083290 Cairo MENA in English 0742 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Alexandria, Sept. 2 (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni held a session of talks this morning after President Museveni's arrival at al-Nuzhah airport on his way to Paris.

President Mubarak led officials welcoming president Museveni.

Meets Mubarak, Departs for Paris

NC0209092790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0837 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Alexandria, 2 Sep (MENA)—Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni Left al-Nuzhah airport in Alexandria this morning following talks with President Husni Mubarak in the VIP lounge which lasted for about one hour.

President Mubarak led officials in bidding farewell to the Ugandan president. Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Alexandria Governor Sayyid al-Jawsaqi also saw him off.

Dr. Butrus Ghali stated that the talks between Presidents Mubarak and Museveni dealt with the Gulf crisis. He added that in his capacity as OAU president, the Ugandan president affirmed his support for Egyptian and Arab efforts and emphasized the importance of implementing the UN resolutions, led by those which demanded the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

Dr. Ghali said that the talks also dealt with the meeting to be held in Kampala on 8 September concerning the OAU's position on the issues of southern Africa, particularly the issues of ending apartheid in South Africa and the current negotiations between the liberation organizations, including the African National Council under the leadership of Nelson Mandela, and the De Klerk government.

Dr. Ghali said that the OAU president will return to Egypt on 5 September and will hold further talks with President Mubarak.

Dr. Ghali said that this morning he held talks with the Ugandan foreign minister on the meeting in Kampala on 8 September which will also discuss the dispute between Senegal and Mauritania, as Uganda is responsible for settling this dispute by peaceful means. Egypt is a member of the committee which is assisting President Museveni in his mediation for settling this dispute.

Meets Sidqi at Cairo Airport

NC0509110190 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 5 Sep 90

[Text] Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni arrived at Cairo International Airport from France this afternoon. He is making a stopover on his way to Uganda. His excellency was received at the airport by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif sidqi.

President Museveni, the current chairman of the OAU, held talks with President Mubarak during an earlier stopover at Alexandria's al-Nuzhah Airport on his way to Paris. They discussed recent Gulf developments and current African issues.

Departs After One-Hour Meeting

NC0509120490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1107 GMT 5 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 5 Sep (MENA)—Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, the current chairman of the OAU, left Cairo for Uganda this afternoon after stopping for one hour at Cairo Airport where he held consultations with Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi. The consultations focused on recent Gulf developments, current African issues, notably the debt issue, and border disputes among some African countries.

Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and the Ugandan ambassador to Cairo saw him off.

Envoy on Evacuation of Nationals From Gulf

NC3108130590 Cairo MENA in English 1224 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Amman, 31 Aug (MENA)—The planes provided by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to Egypt to help transport Egyptians returning home from Iraq and Kuwait started their flights today, Muhab Muqbil, Egypt's ambassador to Jordan, said.

Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, said two days ago that his country was ready to provide an air lift for Egyptians, Muqbil said. King Fahd of Saudi Arabia made three ferries available to the Egyptian authorities, he said, adding that they started their first trip from al-'Aqabah, Jordan, to Nuwaybi', Egypt, yesterday. Many Arab countries are helping Egypt transfer the Egyptians home, Muqbil said.

1,200 Return via Jordan 2 Sep

NC0209211290 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] A total of 1,200 Egyptians who returned from Kuwait and Iraq via Jordan arrived at Cairo airport today. The returnees arrived aboard six planes belonging to the Egyptian, Saudi, Spanish, Belgian, and German airlines.

Minister Comments on Returnees, ACC Agreements

NC0509122690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0951 GMT 5 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 5 Sep (MENA)—Engineer Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of transport and communications, has announced that there is no longer any crowding among Egyptian nationals wishing to return to the homeland from Iraq and Kuwait. He added that Egypt is asking the Jordanian authorities to permit Egyptians to cross the Iraqi-Jordanian border for immediate transport to Egypt.

Addressing the National Democratic Party's transport and communications committee, which was meeting under its chairman Engineer Muhyi-al-din 'Abd-al-Latif, Minister Mutawalli said that Egyptian transport capacity is currently greater than the number of returnees. He explained that the current capacity will be maintained in order to deal with any future surprises, particularly if the state of war [as received] persists.

He reported that approximately 203,000 Egyptians and 13,000 vehicles had been transported through yesterday, Tuesday, since transport operations were begun to repatriate Egyptians from all points both inside and outside Egyptian borders. [passage omitted]

Eng. Mutawalli stressed that Egypt respects all the charters and agreements signed by the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] countries and has no intention of abolishing them unless one of the other signatories so desires. He noted that Egypt will continue to extend assistance to the Palestinians, proceeding from its patriotic stand on the Palestinian issue. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Meets U.S. Congressional Delegation

NC0309163790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Alexandria, 3 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak this afternoon received the a U.S. congressional delegation that includes 15 senators led by Senator Claiborne Pell and 22 representatives led by Gephardt. [passage omitted]

Speaking after the meeting, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif stated that the talks dealt with the principles that govern Egypt's relations with the international community, particularly the United States and the Arab world. These principles are based on values, mutual respect, credibility, and clear vision.

President Mubarak highlighted the efforts being made by the world community and international organizations to implement the UN and Security Council resolutions, which are consistent with the Arab League resolutions and can lead to peaceful political solutions conducive to an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the reinstatement of the legitimate government.

During the meeting, President Mubarak stressed the importance of exerting the utmost efforts to attain these goals: an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the reinstatement of the legitimate government in order to avoid a military confrontation and the dangers this entails. Mubarak said that he still calls on President Saddam Husayn to decide on an immediate and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of the legitimate government, as no one recognizes this aggression or occupation of the State of Kuwait, which is a member of the United Nations, the Security Council [as received], the Arab League, and other international bodies.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif noted that during the meeting, President Mubarak called on Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to refrain from rejecting all opportunities or alternatives for a peaceful solution, because otherwise he will be pushing matters to dangerous limits. During the meeting, Mubarak reviewed the efforts Egypt exerted before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the resulting crisis, and efforts to contain the crisis within an international or Arab framework. Mubarak said: Our principles are clear, and our stand is based on these principles which require that we refuse to bargain under any name, because there can be no bargaining over or relinquishment of a principle while the crime of the occupation of Kuwait continues. He said that we must realize that Iraq is seeking to preoccupy Arab public opinion with peripheral issues away from the basic issue. He stressed that the basic issue for Egypt is the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the need for a withdrawal.

Mubarak pointed out that in implementation of the Arab League resolution, Egypt, along with other Arab and

Islamic countries, responded to Saudi Arabia's call and sent forces to defend the shrines which Egyptians and Muslims hold in high esteem and sacredness. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Receives Kuwaiti, Saudi Ministers

NC0109122490 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] President Husni Mubarak received this morning His Highness Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Awadi, Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs; and Dr. al-Wahhab al-Fawzan, Kuwaiti health minister. Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Kuwaiti Ambassador to Cairo 'Abd-al- Razzaq al-Kandari also attended the meeting.

President Mubarak also received Saudi Foreign Minister His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Saudi Ambassador to Cairo As'ad Abu-al-Nasr also attended the meeting.

European Parliament Official Meets With Mubarak

NC0309170490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1504 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Alexandria, 3 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received a delegation from the European Parliament [EP] at the Ra's al-Tin palace in Alexandria this afternoon. Following the meeting, European Parliament Vice President John Faum [name and title as received] said President Mubarak briefed the delegation on the Gulf crisis and the proposals to resolve it, and also on the effects of the crisis on Egypt. He noted that the delegation will study what can be done by Egypt and the EC.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, the European parliamentarian said: For our part, we are willing to cooperate and we share with President Mubarak his wish to promote cooperation. We listened to President Mubarak's assessment of the Gulf crisis and we had the opportunity to engage in a significant exchange of views, he said.

He added that the Egyptian stand is highly appreciated in Europe and the European Parliament. We wanted to listen to President Mubarak's personal views on the crisis, particularly after the conclusion of talks in Amman between UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, he pointed out.

He said the discussions also touched on the future, emphasizing the European Parliament's desire to become informed about Egyptian public opinion, which closely reflects Arab public opinion. He added that the parliament is interested in establishing a dialogue and in cultural exchanges so that the two sides can promote cooperation at the economic and social levels. [passage omitted]

Ghali Leaves for Morocco With Message to Hassan

NC0309055590 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, left Cairo this morning for a two-day visit to Morocco.

In a statement to our reporter, Dr. Ghali said that President Husni Mubarak had asked him to deliver a message to King Hassan II of Morocco about developments in the Gulf.

Dr. Ghali said that he will hold talks with Moroccan officials on the situation in the Gulf and efforts to contain the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute.

President Receives Message From Gorbachev

NC0409113890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1055 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 4 Sep (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today received a message from Soviet President Mikahil Gorbachev. The message was delivered by Soviet Ambassador in Cairo Vladimir Polyakov during a meeting with President Mubarak this morning.

Receives Willy Brandt Message

NC0209124190 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] This morning President Husni Mubarak received (Vishminsky), member of the German Bundestag and chairman of the Middle East Department at the Socialist International, who brought a message from Socialist International Chairman Willy Brandt. In the message, Brandt voiced the Socialist International's support for the line pursued by Egypt in handling the Gulf crisis. He also expressed the organization's desire to hold a conference in Brussles to declare this support and back the Egyptian stand.

Mubarak Chairs Meeting, Reviews Gulf Crisis

NC0309123490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Alexandria, 3 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak presided over an expanded meeting at the Ra's al-Tin palace in Alexandria this morning. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi; Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning; and Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture. The meeting was also attended by Dr. Salah Hamid, governor of the Central Bank; Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of transport and communications; Minister of Electricity Mahir Abazah; Minister of Information Safwat al-Sharif; Minister of Industry Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab; Minister of Irrigation 'Isam Radi; Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development; and Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of international cooperation.

Following the 90-minute meeting, Minister of Information Safwat al-Sharif said that President Mubarak reviewed the developments in the Gulf crisis and the international and Arab stand on it. President Mubarak reiterated that any chance to reach a political solution will spare the region, primarily the Iraqi people, the perils and tragedies of a military confrontation.

President Mubarak explained that in the light of the current developments and events it must be clear that Egypt, with all the Arab brothers, rejects the Iraqi occupation of the State of Kuwait, and that Iraq must comply with the resolutions of the international community, the Arab summit, and the Arab League Council calling for unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait, restoration of legitimacy, and respect for the will of the Kuwaiti people.

President Mubarak noted that Egypt's principled stand stems from its pan-Arab responsibility and from its responsibility to safeguard Arab national security. He explained that Iraq should have taken this into account and that Iraq's aggression and expansionist policy at the expense of the independence and sovereignty of fraternal and neighborly Arab states are rejected at the Arab, Islamic, and international levels.

Al-Sharif said that President Mubarak discussed the effects of the Gulf crisis on the Egyptian economy, including the economic development plan, and the government's plans for dealing with these effects. He said that priority should be given to economic and production projects that will bring in revenue, open new work opportunities, contribute to the national economy, and earn foreign currencies through increased exports.

In this connection, President Mubarak issued directives to the government to allocate the necessary funds in accordance with the priorities he mentioned. This includes giving priority to agriculture, securing the necessary funds for the reclamation of 150,000 feddans, and providing foreign currency funds for infrastructure projects in the field of irrigation and underground water. [passage omitted]

Sidqi Welcomes U.S. Decision on Military Debts

NC0209144690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 2 Sep (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has welcomed the reports that the United States has decided to write off Egypt's military debts which amount to $7.6 billion. In statements to the press today, Dr. Sidqi said that contacts have been taking place for some time on this issue. He pointed out that U.S. President George Bush has responded favorably to Egypt's request and the issue is now being discussed by the U.S. Congress.

In his statements, Dr. Sidqi noted that Egypt is pursuing the issue of debts which are falling due. In this regard, Egypt is holding intensive contacts in a bid to reach an agreement with the IMF and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Dr. Sidqi pointed out that the creditor countries greatly appreciate Egypt's stand during the past period.

Dr. Sidqi praised the citizens' understanding of the dimensions of the situation resulting from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. He urged them to exert additional efforts and share the government's burdens, particularly since the state's general budget has had to shoulder great unexpected burdens due to the recent events, especially the shortfalls in revenue from tourism and the Suez Canal and in remittances from Egyptian expatriates.

French Defense Minister Due in Cairo 6 Sep

NC0309095890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0835 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 3 Sep (MENA)—French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement will arrive in Cairo on Thursday [6 September] at the head of a military delegation. The French defense minister will stay in Egypt for three days at the invitation of General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the armed forces and minister of defense and war production.

The French minister will hold talks on military cooperation between Egypt and France.

Country 'Almost' Self-Sufficient in Quality Flour

JN0109151390 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 30 Aug 90 p 1

[Report by Ibrahim Hasanayn]

[Text] Ahmad 'Abd-al-Qadir al-Ghaffar, head of the Egyptian Mills Commission, has announced that Egypt has, for the first time, almost realized self-sufficiency in the production of local high-quality flour. We now have numerous mills capable of meeting our requirements with the exception of a very small amount that we might need from abroad. The capacity of Egyptian mills is about 1.5 million tonnes of flour.

The head of the Mills Commission added in a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH yesterday that for the first time this year 512,000 tonnes of local wheat were supplied to the mills. By the end of this year, the supply will increase to 600,000 tonnes as opposed to 170,000 tonnes last year.

He declared that the quota of high-quality flour for each governorate is 170,000 tonnes a month. He said that the consumption of high-quality flour has decreased during the past period by 20 percent. [sentence as published] The consumption of normal-quality flour decreased by over eight percent after the price went up.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Ghaffar revealed that the private sector imported only a small quantity of 11,000 tonnes of high-quality flour since allowed to do so.

Libya

JANA Editor Comments on Statement by Powell

LD0109003790 Tripoli JANA in English 1820 GMT 31 Aug 90

["JANA's Political Editor Comments on Serious Statement Made By the U.S. Chief of Staff"—JANA headline]

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [August] 31, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Anmerican Chief of Staff "Colin Powell" announced that there must be a modern U.S. strategic nuclear power which includes star wars and the strategic defence against any nuclear attack aimed America or any of its allies.

In an address to the U.S. war veterans yesterday, and was broadcasted by the American tv network [words indistinct] he said that there must be an advanced [word indistinct] force of our own to cover the Mediterranean Sea region, Europe, the Arab Gulf, the Pacific and the Atlantic Oceans, apart from the need for other forces in southeast Asia, to preserve what he called "the vital interests of America".

He also called for a rapid movement special forces ready to intervene in any place in the world. He explained that despite the admiration of Americans towards the Soviet stance at the United Nation "We insist upon America staying strong to confront the Soviet Union, which does not want to step down from its position as a super power and being the only state capable of destroying America by nuclear weapons within 30 minutes.

"For this we must continue to enhance our nuclear force on land and in the sea and continue the programme for strategic defence."

He asserted that America was victorious when the Soviets retreated and the iron wall collapsed "and we must continue in this policy".

The U.S. chief of staff asserted that he and the U.S. war secretary would work towards forming the U.S. forces in a way to make able to achieve the American goals in the future. He explained that the coming 3 or 4 months would be very critical, because America must have forces in readiness acknowledged by the enemy and the friend. He pointed out that during his work as head of [words indistinct), America played the role of the police man in the world to regain what he called "peace".

He said "when there are disturbances, and there is someone who wants a policeman, then we will be called to carry out such tasks."

JANA's political editor commented on this serious statement by saying:

What the U.S. chief of staff revealed confirms in a way that leaves no room for doubt that America considers every spot in the world as an American interest area. This is calling upon it to act in order to [word indistinct] its domination and control over the six continents of the world. It indicates that America has no intention of withdrawing from the Arab region even if the Gulf crisis would end. It also does not wish to withdraw from the Pacific and the Atlantic oceans, but, in the contrary, it will act upon strengthening and consolidating its military presence in those regions, fabricating more political and military crises and nationalist conflict in them to justify its presence. The declaration of the U.S. official of his pleasure towards the Soviet retreat, which had left the door open to the U.S. [words indistinct] progress towards control and domination over the nations, embodies its intention to control the globe [word indistinct].

For it to achieve that, it must work towards destroying the Soviet nuclear force because it is the only deterrent for its expansionist policies.

The editor added what has the U.S. military official indicated with regards to consolidating the U.S. military presence in Europe, provides the clear evidence that America does not only work to lay siege upon the Soviet Union and destroy it, but also it had placed a (veto) against the European unity to abort it before its birth through increasing the U.S. military force in Europe so that it will not constitute grave danger to it in the future.

JANA's political editor asked about (?judicial) legitimacy by which the U.S. forces were moved to the Arab Gulf in the face of whom the U.S. official called "the [words indistinct] legitimacy" by saying: What do the tens of thousands of U.S. troops carry in the Arab Gulf region? What are the American values of which the U.S. official boast? Are they the values which the U.S. Stealth aircraft brought with them to the Arab Gulf sky? Or are they the plotting of conspiracies in Latin America beginning with the assassination of Salvador Allende, the embargo against Nicaragua and the abortion of its revolution. Or are they the values which led to the invasion of Grenada? Or are those values the ones carried out by the U.S. aircraft to hit at civilian old people, children and women in Tripoli and Banghazi. And the assassination attempts against the leader of the revolution and the bombing of his home in al-Tayr [April] month 1986? Or were they the values of the pirates who invaded Panama? Or are they those upon which the relation of strategic alliance is based between America and the Zionist enemy, which is killing children, women and old people and usurping the land of Palestine?

The political editor made clear that we agree to a large extent with the way the American official described the conflict in the Arabian gulf region, that it was not a conflict between Muslims and Christians and we stress here that the conflict is between America and the Arab nation in particular and between America and other nations in general and at their forefront the people of the Soviet Union whom America is seeking to paralyse their movement and destroy their nuclear capability. [sentence as received]

The political editor abhored the attempts of the American military official to describe the changes which have taken, and still, take place in the world as the time of revolutionary change which preserves the American goals and principles; The editor said the changes taking place in the world today are in fact a start of growing awareness of the masses towards the abolition of all forms of hegemony and domination. For the realisation of the era of the [word indistinct] where sovereignty, authority and wealth are in the hands of the masses who are looking for a safe life in mutual peace and not under the nuclear terror and destruction which [word indistinct] advocates and threatens other nations of the globe with.

The political editor replied to the American military official who said: look at the United Nations which was laughable and did not work for years but in 1990 began to realise what its Founders promised. The editor pointed out that what America saw laughable of the United Nations the other peoples did not see it as such. But the peoples of the world looked with sadness and sympathy at the United Nations which undoubtedly became a tool in the hands of America and helpless;

After it was threatening in the past arrogantly and stubbornly to withdraw from organisations and agencies of the United Nation after the latter took just resolutions vis a vis the causes of people, here is the United Nations winning the admiration and consent of the American Administration. What America calls as the fulfilling of the founders of the United Nations is in fact a naked admission of the stance of America who stole the role of the United Nations using it unilaterally in the Arab Gulf area making the United Nations a laughing stock before the peoples of the world.

JANA's political editor concluded his comments on the statements of the American military official by saying: We draw the attention of these statements and urge them to stand firmly in the face of this American colonial plan which is frightful and aimed at turning the whole world into merely American interests where people's freedom and sovereignty are violated and become zones of influence under American control.

SUNA, JANA Cooperation Program Agreed Upon

EA0209092890 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1716 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 1 September (SUNA)—A program for implementing the cooperation agreement between the Sudanese News Agency, SUNA, and the Jamahiriyah News Agency, JANA, which was signed in December 1989 in Tripoli, was agreed upon in Tripoli recently, according to Mr. Abu Bakr Waziri, SUNA's deputy director, who returned to Khartoum today after leading the agency's delegation to Libya. He said the agreement fulfills the decisions of the Sudanese and Libyan information and cultural delegations in Khartoum last June.

Mr. Abu Bakr Waziri further said the agreement provides for opening a direct line for an acoustic signaling device [khatt buqiyy] between the two agencies, as well as enhancing direct technical communications to monitor the agencies' transmissions to exchange information and (?technical) documents. He said the agreement also included exchanging news research and (?articles) to be disseminated extensively by the press and information organs in the two countries, pointing out that the exercise will provide a great opportunity to address Libyan public opinion as well as the Sudanese community in [words indistinct]. He further added that they agreed to [word indistinct] reporters and representatives of both agencies to each country. [passage omitted]

Mr. Waziri said that [words indistinct] recently a special aerial had been beaming SUNA transmissions to the Maghreb as a preliminary step to transmitting SUNA in Arabic to the whole region. [passage omitted]

Minutes of Sudan Cooperation Agreement Signed

LD0209205990 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] As embodiment of the unionist integration charter, the minutes of an agreement on security cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and Sudan were signed tonight at the offices of the People's Committee of Justice. The minutes of the agreement, signed by Secretary of the People's Committee of Justice and Brigadier General Faysal 'Ali Abu-Salih, member of the Revolution Command Council and interior minister in Sudan, included many aspects of cooperation in the fields of security and justice and the unification of legislation, in addition to technical and training cooperation. The minutes of the agreement stressed the need to create a unified formula that will bolster integration between the sons of the same Arab people in the Great Jamahiriyah and Sudan, facilitate the movement, residence, and employment of the two brotherly countries' citizens, and encourage measures that will bolster cooperation in the sphere of passports and civil defense activities.

Accord on 'Large Quantities' of Oil for Sudan

EA0309182190 Khartoum SUNA in English 1020 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Tripoli, 3 Sept (SUNA)—Chairman of the RCC [Revolution Command Council General 'Umar al-Bashir yesterday met with a delegation representing the Sudanese popular committee in Tripoli headed by its chairman al-Fatih 'Umar 'Abdullah. General al-Bashir briefed the delegation on the promotion of Sudanese-Libyan relations and latest development in the Arab area. The meeting also tackled the problems facing the Sudanese working in Libya. Gen. al-Bashir said their conditions there would witness remarkable progress.

On the other hand, Sudan Ambassador to Libya Abbas Ibrahim al-Nur has affirmed the consolidation of Sudan-Libya relations, particularly under the rule of the September Revolution.

Meanwhile, an agreement was signed between the Sudanese public Corporation for Petroleum and the Libyan Braiga Oil Company, al-Nur said. According to the agreement, Sudan would be supplied with large quantities of oil. The Libyan banks were directed to accept the Sudanese citizens' revenues in order to be utilized in importing Libyan-made commodities he said.

Another agreement in the health field was also signed between the two countries, he added.

Al-Qadhdhafi, Al-Bashir Comment on Unity

LD0309181490 Tripoli JANA in English 1641 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Tripoli, al fatih [September] 3, Arab Maghreb Union Pool/JANA—The leader of the revolution has hailed the brotherly Arab people in Sudan and Lt.Gen. Umar al-Bashir and his companions who have insisted on joining their brotherly Libyan Arab people in great Al-Jamahiriyah in their celebrations comemorating the 21st anniversary of the Great Al-Fatih revolution.

During the ceremony on the conclusion the basic organizational resolution of the General Secretariat of the Libyan Arab-Sudanese integration, the leader of the revolution has said that this is regarded as a proof that the Great Al-Fatih revolution is a unionist one for all Arabs. As such, all the revolutionaries and free unionists celebrate its anniversary glorifying it.

He has added that all male and female Libyans hail with gratitude their brothers in Sudan and their brotherly Lieutenant General Umar al-Bashir who join them today in these celebrations.

He continues that we in Sudan and Great Al-Jamahiriyah celebrate this 21st anniversary of the revolution that was waged for achieving Arab unity. Only free unionists have been in the ranks of this revolution reconfirming that its principles have begun to be implemented on Arab soil. Talk on integration and unity is common now among the Arabs from the Pacific to the Gulf, pointing out that to realize this objective of the Great Al-Fatih revolution, unionist and unitarian Arab rallies in terms of council and unions in the Arab fatherland have come into being.

He adds that on such a day, the anniversary of this revolution, we sign these historic documents; they are ones on integration between two parts of the Arab fatherland, namely, Sudan and Libya, pointing out that the Tripoli Charter was formerly signed, and other unionist documents with Sudan, but anti-Arab-unity forces conspired against them, thereby foiling them. He has stressed that the demand for unity has not been foiled. Nor is it dead. It is still alive as long as this nation breathes. As such, the attempts at murder have failed. Those who made these attempts have fallen.

The unionist attempt once again with Sudan is due to these patriotic and free young officers who have waged the deliverance revolution headed by our dear brother Lt. Gen. Umar Hassan al-Bashir.

He has stressed that this is regarded as proof that the question of unity is stronger than all anti-unity attempts. Now, hand-in-hand with these courageous youth in Sudan and with the masses of the brotherly Sudanese people, we say to them: We are very confident of your resolve and of your courage and your unionist sincerity. We pay tribute to your courage and steadfastness in the face of all the plots despite the problems facing Suan that have been imposed on it. These problems have been created by anti-Sudan and anti-unity forces. But these brotherly youths have made the demand for unity paramount. Unless these courageous youths are unionist, they will not have thought of unity and integration in these circumstances in particular.

He has pointed out that the fallen regionalists who were in Sudan used to make pretexts whenever we put forward unity to them, alleging that there were internal problems in Sudan that would not permit putting it forward, but these youth have realised what the great Sudanese people have come to know—that these problems can only be solved through unity. Should it become their chance to solve the problems, unity is necessary for solving our regional problems. With unity in practice, we repulse the internal regional problems in Sudan and in all the countries of the Arab nation.

Lt. Gen. Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council in sisterly Sudan, has stressed on this anniversary that the Great Al-Fatih revolution is one for all the Arabs setting itself and potentials for Arab unity. It has been struggling for it over the previous years despite all the circumstances and disappointments arising in the Arab arena and despite all the plots extending even to an armed attack on the house of the leader to foil this revolution.

Despite all this, this revolution has been steadfast because it is genuine, preserving the torch of Arab unity over this period and being an example to us. In our deliverance revolution we have tackled several matters within a short time. Our masses now start to assume power. We have benefited from the Libyan Arab experiment, passing this resolution within seven months after the outbreak of the revolution.

In his speech, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir has stressed that the integration between the two countries will be a nucleus for overall Arab unity. It will be a model of unity to this nation. We are capable of overcoming all the snags and challenges to achieving the overall Arab unity where all small entities melt. We represent one Arab nation of common history, destination, language, and religion. Only with unity can we vanquish our enemies. He has pointed out that the unionist consciousness has grown, setting its fire. All the Arab masses speak now of unity, demanding its achievement. There is no option before the Arab rulers except responding to the desire on the part of Arab masses to speed up unity.

He has announced that the initiative put forward by the guardian of Arab nationalism to bring about a solution to what is prevailing in the Arab Gulf region has expressed the greatness of this revolution.

He has said that this peace initiative has brought about positive solutions to the present situation in the Gulf region. Should it be implemented, the Arab nation will be stronger, more connected and more conscious of its interests, in addition to being more aware of the danger lurking against it. He has expressed his hope that all quarters will respond to this peace initiative.

Concluding his speech, he has hailed the Great Al-Fatih revolution for its struggle toward Arab unity, stressing that he is resolved to continue taking this road.

Sudan's Al-Bashir Comments on Visit; Departs

LD0309182490 Tripoli JANA in English 1709 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Tripoli, Al-Fatih [September] 3, JANA - Arab Maghreb Union's Pool—Lt. Gen. Umar Hassan Al-Bashir the president of the Revolutionary Command Council in sisterly Sudan and his accompanying delegation left Tripoli today ending a visit to Great Jamahiriyah during which they took part in the celebrations of the Libyan Arab people marking the 21st. anniversary of the Great Al Fatih revolution.

Lt. Gen. Al-Bashir was given an official farewell ceremony headed by Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir. [passage omitted]

In a statement to JANA, Lt. Gen. Al-Bashir welcomed the initiative from the leader of the revolution laid down during the extraordinary session of the General People's Council to settle the tense situation in the Arab Gulf.

Before leaving Great Jamahiriyah this morning, Lt. Gen. Al-Bashir said "In this initiative lies the solution for the current crisis, which is a solution satisfying all sides and saving the face. It tackled all the issues which cause problems in the region to agree upon an oil policy, dilute the disputes which had emerged on the Arab arena after the latest summit. We see in this initiative a way out of this crisis if the Arabs actually had the wish to solve this problem peacefully away from foreign interventions". And on the outcome of his visit to Great Jamahiriyah Lt. Gen. Al-Bashir explained that this visit as considered a crowning to all the efforts exerted last year by the two leaderships "and with Allah's blessing signing took place on the founding constitution of integration and the work programme for the secretariat. We pray to Allah to make it a blessed step in which all measures and integral projects be completed so that we can take another step which is the comprehensive unity, with Allah's will, between the two countries".

Official Declares Iraq's Battle Pan-Arab

JN3108202790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1744 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Tripoli, 31 Aug (INA)—A delegation of the Foreign Relations Bureau of the Regional Command [of Iraq's Arab Socialist Ba'th Party] led by 'Isa Salman met here today with Sulayman Sasi al-Shumumi, secretary to the People's Committees Affairs at Libya's General Congress.

They considered the implications of the American imperialist and allied deployment in the Arabian Gulf, its goals, and the economic embargo against Iraq, as well as the ugly role of President Bush against Iraq and the Arab nation.

Al-Shumumi emphasized the Libyan people's support for Iraq in all its trials. The battle, he declared, is a pan-Arab one pitting the Arab nation against American imperialism and Zionism. We will triumph, he added.

Al-Shumumi noted that the Libyan people have given expression to their support for Iraq in various forms, stressing that Iraq's victory amounts to a victory for Libya itself.

The Iraqi delegation is in Libya to attend observances of the 21st anniversary of the 1 September Revolution.

USSR's Shevardnadze Sends Anniversary Greetings

LD0409212390 Tripoli Television Arabic 1930 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] The brother secretary of the popular committee of the people's External Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze praised the depth of the relations of friendship and cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Soviet Union.

In telegrams exchanged on the 35th anniversary of the establishment of political relations between the Libyan and Soviet peoples, which falls today, they expressed deep satisfaction with the development of relations and their progress in various fields.

Morocco

Egypt's Butrus Ghali Meets With Hassan

LD0409083690 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II last night received at the royal palace in Skhirat Butrus Ghali, the Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, who was accompanied by his country's ambassador in Rabat, Muhsin Bishr, and his special adviser, Ramzi 'Izz al-Din.

The audience was attended by Abdellatif Filali, the minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation; Ahmed Reda Guedira, His Majesty's adviser; and Driss Basri, the minister of information and interior.

Meets With Prime Minister

LD0409205290 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Azzedine Laraki received at his office this morning the Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali. The talks dealt with the latest developments in the Middle East and the Gulf crisis in particular. The prime minister and the Egyptian minister recorded the identity of views of both countries on the terms of reaching a peaceful solution to this crisis and the need to contain its repercussions on the situation in the Arab world. [passage omitted]

Hassan Receives Yemeni Foreign Minister

LD0509040790 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, received at the royal palace in Skhirat this evenig Mr. 'Abdulaziz al-Dali, foreign minister of the Yemeni Republic and envoy of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to his majesty. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Al-Bashir Reaffirms Commitment to UN Resolutions

EA0109120690 Khartoum SUNA in English 0925 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] Khartoum, 1st September (SUNA)—The chairman of the RCC [Revolution Command Council], General 'Umar al-Bashir, yesterday reiterated Sudan's respect to the U.N. Charter and its commitment to the international organisation's resolutions 660, 661, 662 and 664 on the Gulf crisis. Gen al-Bashir, in a press statement he issued yesterday, said Sudan however demanded the international community to treat the U.N. resolutions against Israel seriously.

He explained that the situation differs at the Arab League. The Arab League differs from the U.N. It is a council for the one Arab family. We should solve our differences in the context of this council alone, Gen al-Bashir noted.

He referred to Sudan's stance at the Arab League, which calls for an inter-Arab solution to the Gulf crisis away from foreign interventions and condemnations in favor of an active diplomatic movement to contain the situation and to reach a solution that preserves the rights of all Arab brothers and the dignity of the Arab nation.

Al-Bashir Sends Written Message to Saddam

EA0409201090 Khartoum SUNA in English 1013 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Khartoum, 4 September (SUNA)—The Iraqi president, Saddam Husayn, has received a written message from chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], General 'Umar al-Bashir. The message was handed over yesterday by the press advisor and personal envoy of the RCC chairman, Sadiq Bakhit. The message comes within Sudan's efforts toward reaching a peaceful Arab solution to the Gulf crisis.

Six Hundred Rebels Surrender in Kurdufan

EA3108205490 Khartoum SUNA in English 0924 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Khartoum, 31 Aug (SUNA)—Six hundred rebels have surrendered to the armed forces units in Kaduqli, southern Kurdufan, an army source disclosed. The source indicated that the returnees expressed good intentions to live in peace in accordance with the general amnesty declared by the government last year. The rebels are facing acute food shortages that forced them to scatter in search of food, they said. The sources said the local army commanders have welcomed the returnees and offered them food assistance.

Kuwait

Leaders Meet UK's Hurd, Urge Military Action

LD0409124990 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1311 GMT 4 Sep 90

[By Paul Bromley, PRESS ASSOCIATION lobby correspondent, in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia]

[Text] Kuwaiti rulers today told Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd they wanted a military strike against Saddam Husayn to liberate their occupied country. But Mr Hurd insisted sanctions were stll the best way to force the Iraqi president to withdraw his troops from Kuwait. The foreign secretary today met the emir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, and his senior ministers, who have set up a government in exile in the mountainside city of al-Ta'if in Saudi Arabia.

At a news conference in al-Ta'if the Kuwaiti foreign minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah said all efforts to see a peaceful end to the crisis had been defused. Speaking through an interpreter he added: "We as an occupied country would very much like to see that our country is liberated, even if that means military action—it is that that we are hoping to see.

"It is our refusal to occupation and to the damage that has been done to our country that we insist on pursuing that with the international community's help, and from our friends everywhere."

The Kuwaiti housing minister Yahya al-Sumayt said: "We are against war and against violence, but sometimes you have to evaluate things." He criticised 'paper' united nations' resolutions throughout history, and insisted: "Implementation has to be forceful and to be forceful you have to use power, and we think any resolution not enforced by force will not be possible."

Mr Hurd said his preference was still for the sanctions route. "It is certainly the best way." He added: "Anyone who thinks seriously about the military option cannot think it is an easy way or a cost-less way.

"So it must be right to put the emphasis for the moment on the peaceful way, on the eficiency of sanctions.

"We will keep in reserve, and are certainly not excluding, other options".

During his talks with the emir Mr Hurd assured the Kuwaitis that Britain was working towards the removal of Iraqi troops from their soil. Both leaders agreed that Saddam Husayn had to be stopped and might be planning further aggression.

"We are entirely clear that the outcome of this crisis has to be the unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait, and the restoration of the legitimate government", said the foreign secretary. He told the emir: "We have all been watching with much admiration the dignity with which your highness has been conducting himself in these troubled times, and you will know that there is overwhelming sympathy for Kuwait in Great Britain—not just for ministers but from the whole people".

The emir thanked Mr Hurd for the way in which Britain had proved to be "a real friend to Kuwait through this crisis". Meanwhile Kuwaiti ministers had been receiving reports about conditions in their country under Iraqi occupation.

The minister for municipal affairs, Fahd 'Abdullah al-Hassawi, told the news conference: "We have people who are practically running the country, certain services, and we have people that are trying to resist the (Iraqi) army." The government ministers also spoke of their dash to freedodm after Saddam's soldiers moved into Kuwait on August 2nd, saying that they had to flee at short notice with their families.

Minister Reviews Efforts To End Iraqi Occupation

NC0309074590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 3 Sep (MENA)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has expressed his gratitude and that of Kuwait's amir and people to the Egyptian Government and people for their support for Kuwait in its ordeal.

In an interview published in today's issue of the newspaper AL-AHRAM, the Kuwaiti foreign minister described Egypt's role in the region as a pioneering one. He said: We must acknowledge that Egypt has assumed prominence in the Arab world because of its honorable stands and for this reason it is a source of pride for us that it should be the Arab nation's pioneer country.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad affirmed that Kuwaiti resistance exists and will become more effective in the near future. He said it will be the spark which will end the catastrophe. On another issue, he pointed out that all those who were harmed by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait will receive reparation as soon as the crisis ends and the legitimate government is restored.

Concerning the proliferation of initiatives to resolve the crisis, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said the door to Arab initiatives was closed by the statement issued by the Arab League Council at its recent meeting in Cairo and which stated that any initiative that does not come from the Arab League must be rejected. He expressed regret at reports about new Arab initiatives and pointed out that the news disseminated about them will not lead us to real progress toward resolving the crisis. He asked why these initiatives were not submitted through the Arab League.

On the stand that Kuwait would adopt if time drags on without progress toward resolving the crisis, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said: "We will cooperate with the devil to drive out the occupier but we warn that this will be a catastrophe to the Arab world."

Interior Minister Urges Resistance to Occupation

LD0309185690 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1824 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Jeddah, 3 Sep (SPA)—Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah has said that if the Iraqi people were ballotted they would want to join Kuwait, and not have Kuwait annexed to Iraq.

In a statement reported by KUNA today, Shaykh Salim al-Sabah stressed that all Kuwaitis must resist the Iraqi occupation, irrespective of whether they are in or outside Kuwait. He said: Resistance does not necessarily mean carryiNg arms to kill the helpless Iraqi soldiers who have started handing over their weapons because they cannot continue the fight against the Kuwaiti people.

He commended the brotherly stance adopted by [Saudi] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and [Egyptian] President Husni Mubarak. He said that Kuwait's just cause enjoys an international consensus of UN support, as witnessed previously. He said: The Kuwaiti political leadership abroad is doing its duty fully by contacting Arab brothers to discuss the latest developments, and by contacting the heads of friendly countries to emphasize Kuwait's rights.

Council of Ministers Reviews Gulf Situation

LD0309223890 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2220 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Kuwait [as received], 3 Sep (SPA)—At a meeting held today under the chairmanship of the deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers reviewed a number of reports on the latest developments in the Arabian Gulf region following the Iraqi occupation of the State of Kuwait.

Radio Kuwait said that the council focused on debating the incoming reports on the talks held by UN secretary-general Javier Perez de Cuellar with the Iraqi foreign minister. The radio pointed out that Minister of Planning sulayman al-Mutawa' and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Yahya al-Samit briefed the council on the meeting they held recently with a U.S. congress delegation.

British Bus Convoy To Leave for Baghdad

LD0309200290 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1854 GMT 3 Sep 90

[By Paul Bromley, Press Association lobby correspondent, in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, and David Mason in London]

[Text] Hundreds of trapped British women and children were tonight preparing to board a fleet of buses leaving Kuwait for Baghdad in the hope of finding a new route to freedom. The convoy, which will set off early tomorrow morning, is being organised by members of the British community in Kuwait now that it is becoming increasingly clear they will not be able to fly from the occupied country. Once in the Iraqi capital, the fleeing Westerners hope to carry on overland to Jordan or take flights to Amman.

The Foreign Office was tonight considering chartering Iraqi planes to evacuate British citizens from Baghdad. "We're not talking about a ransom here to get people out. We're talking about paying a commercial fare. That's not to be confused with doing a deal or buying people," said an FO [Foreign Office] spokesman.

The bus convoy plan, which may be used by as many as 500, was announced tonight by a Foreign Office spokesman accompanying Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd on his Gulf tour. Speaking in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, the spokesman said: "At 6 am Kuwait time, 3 am GMT (4 am BST) on Tuesday September 4, a convoy of buses will be leaving from Kuwait for all women and children who wish to leave and will drive them up to Baghdad."

A special announcement is to be broadcast tonight on the BBC World Service to inform trapped Westerners of the convoy. A spokesman for Mr Hurd said: "I am sure that he will be very pleased to know that this process of moving out women and children has begun, but, of course, he will not be satisfied until everybody is out who wants to leave, including the men."

The Foreign office spokesman said the intention was to move people from Kuwait and then eventually to get them out of Baghdad. It has become increasingly obvious that we will not be able to fly from Kuwait," he added. All those wishing to join the convoy are being asked to report 30 minutes before the departure time of 6 am in Kuwait. The road to Baghdad is difficult and dangerous but previous convoys, taking relatives of British diplomats and some envoys, have been able to complete the journey.

A Foreign Office spokesman in London said: "We're thinking that there will be roughly 500 people. We've got buses for that number with some back up." The women and children would be put up in hotels after the 10 to 12-hour journey while their exit visas were arranged. Plans to get them out of Iraq would depend on the Iraqis, but one possibility would be to put them on an Iraqi flight to Amman in Jordan, and pick them up there. The most obvious route out of Iraq is overland to Jordan. An Iraqi airways jet brought more than 100 women and children home from Baghdad at the weekend.

European community ambassadors in Baghdad are considering various options to get their citizens out, including chartering Iraqi planes and an overland evacuation, he said. Given the constant shifts in Iraqi policy, Western flights to Baghdad could still be a possibility, despite an apparent ban announced in Iraq yesterday.

"We are willing to take any route which we can use to get our citizens out. Any option is as easy or as difficult as

the Iraqis choose to make it," said the FO spokesman. He was aware of 25 British citizens with exit visas in Baghdad. Reports stemming from British diplomatic sources in Iraq suggested that by today up to 80 Britons could have exit visas, but the spokesman could not confirm or deny this. He said if some women and children were unable to join the convoy, the embassy in Kuwait would try to get them out too. But he warned those who did not follow advice to leave "would have to be prepared to sit it out."

British diplomats in Kuwait have also helped organise the evacuation, despite Iraqi soldiers surrounding their embassy preventing anyone from coming out or going in. "Our embassy in Kuwait is still able to function," the spokesman said.

Deputy Prime Minister Sir Geoffrey Howe warned today of the long drawn-out test that lay ahead over the Gulf crisis. He told a meeting in Newbury, Berkshire: "Iraq's failure to respond to UN Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar's single-minded mission makes clear the extent to which our resolve is likely to be severely tested in the days to come. That test will be long-drawn out. But we have strong assets—the most impressive display of international solidarity in living memory, a world-wide conviction that the dictator's aggression should not succeed, and a practical plan to ensure that he does not."

Gulf Papers Cited on Foodstuff Shortages

NC3008150090 Paris AFP in English 1444 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Manama, Aug 30 (AFP)—Supplies of basic foodstuffs are running low in Iraqi-occupied Kuwait City and even fishing has ground to a standstill, Gulf newspapers reported Thursday [30 August], citing people who have fled Kuwait.

Bahraini and other Gulf papers said rice, sugar, bread and drinking water were in short supply. Fruit and vegetables were unavailable, except for courgettes, onions and water melons.

Stocks of food from Kuwait have been transferred to Iraq, the reports said.

Fishermen in the emirate, which has a shoreline stretching 290 kilometres (180 miles), were afraid to put out to sea in case of attack by the Iraqi Navy, the reports said.

Al-Ayyam daily reported here that Iraqi forces had seized most fishing boats since the invasion of Kuwait on August 2.

Iraqi officials have said basic foodstuffs would be rationed in Iraq from Saturday [1 September] because of the international trade embargo following the invasion, after which Baghdad annexed Kuwait.

Further Reportage on Resistance Against Iraqis

Heavy Iraqi Losses Reported

PM3008115690

[Editorial report]

London BBC Television Network in English at 2130 GMT on 29 August broadcasts in its "Newsnight" program an interview with a Kuwaiti resistance fighter identified as "Sammy," in English, by reporter Peter Snow in London, during a report on the Kuwaiti resistance against Iraq. Snow says: "Tonight I met a man who say's he's a Kuwaiti officer, a resistance fighter with a degree in international law; and he gave me a first-hand account of the war of attrition he says Kuwaitis are waging against the invader."

Snow reports that because nearly all ambulances are still driven by Kuwaitis and Kuwaitis still run two of the country's eight hospitals, the resistance has an accurate picture of the toll it is taking among Iraq's forces.

"Sammy" says: "These have been reporting in earlier days between 30 to 40 casualties, but more recently they have been telling us about 70 casualties between dead and injured on a daily basis." Snow replies: "Seventy Iraqis dead and wounded each day?" "Sammy" says: "Yes." Snow asks: "That's just two of what, eight, nine hospitals in Kuwait?" "Sammy" says: "Yes, two of eight. Yeah, eight." Snow states: "But that's a very high figure. Is that really believable?" "Sammy" answers: "It is very believable, because we basically rely on the statistics provided by doctors, provided by ambulance drivers who are still Kuwaitis, although they have been siezed and controlled by Iraqis. They report what they see."

Snow reports that the resistance gets weapons by storming Iraqi checkpoints and armories. "Sammy" says: "Some members of the resistance have seized weapons depots of the Iraqi Army and they've been using grenades on a mass level. More recently we have this attack on a bus, on a military bus in which up to... it's been reported that up to eighty people were killed."

Video footage of a burning truck is shown, and Snow says that resistance is widespread and highly destructive: It is having an effect on the morale of Iraqi troops. "Sammy" says: "Some of them were ideologically motivated by this thing about them coming to Kuwait to support the revolution but,—having seen what they've been doing in Kuwait, having seen that there was no revolution in the making, that they were not actually supporting the revolution but crushing a regime, crushing a whole experiment in government and having got first-hand knowledge of the Kuwaiti people, having met the Kuwaitis for the first time—they have come to the conclusion that they basically were brainwashed."

Snow reports that except for emergency services staffing, civilians in Kuwait City have stopped working. "Sammy" says: "Kuwait is well known as a financial

center and by us not going to work and not conducting the financial affairs we used to conduct and playing this... such a major role in the Gulf, in the finances of the Gulf we are actually depriving them from the ability of using Kuwait for their own means. I mean, what they need out of Kuwait is not such, you know, ideological demands—Kuwait being part of this, of Iraq but rather, you know, to use Kuwait as a financial center, as an economic center. In the long term they will not be able to do that." Snow asks: "So what are you saying? What is your political message, if you like. What is the resistance's political message to Saddam Husayn? "Sammy" replies" "By doing that, we actually are showing to the world that it's not easy to incorporate Kuwait. And that there is time now, basically for our allies, to come in for our help because we basically are demonstrating very credible resistance. It's not necessarily military, because of the ratio of forces. The military is just one aspect of it, but the civilian resistance is, basically, it's a marvellous achievement so far."

Muscat TV Reports

NC0409193090 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] According to reports received from occupied Kuwait, Kuwaiti resistance men executed four successful operations during the past 24 hours as the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait entered its second month. Nine Iraqi soldiers were killed, one vehicle was destroyed, and another vehicle was put out of commision. One of the attackers was wounded in these oprations.

The reports said that the resistance has intensified its military operations and that a resistance group waged a five-minute face-to-face battle with personnel at an Iraqi guard post in an residential area, during which the group used various types of automatic weapons, hand grenades, and rockets. The reports indicated that the members of the group, who were in two civilian cars, surprised the Iraqi guards and fired a rocket at a tracked vehicle, setting it ablaze. The group also directed automatic weapons fire and hand grenades at the Iraqi guards.

The reports said that another Kuwaiti resistance group fired a rocket, which was followed by automatic weapons fire, at an Iraqi military truck loaded with ammunition. The truck caught fire and its cargo exploded. The explosion was heard all over Kuwait City. The reports said that the truck driver and his passenger died immediately.

The reports also said that a third resistance group has put an Iraqi military jeep out of commission in an area on the fourth circular road when it directed automatic weapons fire at it. Those who were in the jeep were wounded.

Oman

Government Denies Iraqi Ship 'Commandeered'

NC0409182690 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] The Government of the Sultanate of Oman today denied reports that the Iraqi ship Zanoobia has been commandeered to an Omani port. A responsible source at the Information Ministry said that his majesty's government has thus far not sanctioned a measure such as the detention of Iraqi ships at its ports. The source added that his majesty's government, which observes all international laws and conventions in this regard, stresses that any such measure would require specific coordination in advance, a matter for which no arrangement of any kind has been made.

UK Foreign Secretary Hurd Arrives on Visit

Makes Statement

NC0209135190 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] British Foreign Secretary His Excellency Douglas Hurd arrived in Muscat at noon today as part of a tour of the region. Upon arrival, he stated that his visit to the Sultanate comes within the framework of the cooperation and coordination between the government of His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id and the British Government. He said the visit reflects the strong historical ties of friendship between the two governments and peoples.

In a statement to the OMANI NEWS AGENCY, Hurd added that it is very important for the governments of both countries to study the prevailing conditions in the region in the wake of the Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait. His Excellency Douglas Hurd pointed out that his talks with His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, will emphasize the need for an Iraqi troop withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of the legitimate Kuwaiti Government. He asserted that there will be no comprimise on this issue.

On the failure of the UN secretary general's efforts to resolve the issue with the Iraqi side, Douglas Hurd said that he had doubted that the meeting would produce any positive results. He asserted that the best way to find a solution for the Gulf crisis is to continue the economic blockade against Iraq. This is what we will focus on, he said, but added: We do not rule out other options if the situation so requires. The British foreign secretary was received by His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, a number of Foriegn Ministry officials, and his excellency the British ambassador.

News Conference With Bin-'Alawi

NC0209190090 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] His Excellency British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, held a joint news conference at the press club this afternoon. His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi opened the conference by welcoming his excellency the British minister, praising his country's positive stand on the Gulf crisis, and commending the historically good relations between the two friendly countries.

His excellency referred to the talks he held with the British foreign secretary in London nine days ago, describing them as useful.

The British minister expressed his pleasure at being in Muscat, noting that the Omani stand on the Gulf crisis is identical to that of the British Government. He said: We are committed to the UN Security Council resolutions on Iraq's immediate and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait, the restoration of the legitimate Kuwaiti Government, and the release of all detained hostages.

Douglas Hurd asserted that his government's stand fully agrees with that of the international community in accepting no compromise on the three principles of an immediate and unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, the restoration of the legitimate Kuwaiti authority, and the release of the hostages.

On the UN secretary general's meeting with the Iraqi foreign minister in Amman last Friday, Hurd said the failure of that meeting confirms what had earlier been announced by the British Government. He added that emphasis must now be given to tightening the boycott in implementation of international resolutions.

The British minister commended the stand adopted by the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council and their commitment to the UN resolutions.

For his part, His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah expressed his regret that Iraq has wasted the opportunity to find a peaceful solution through negotiations between Perez de Cuellar and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz. He noted that the meeting between the two was arranged at the UN secretary general's personal initiative. He stressed the need for tightening the economic blockade against Iraq.

On expanding the trade ban to cover airborne trade, the British minister said the UN Security Council resolution covers land, maritime, and air trade. However, efforts have been focused on maritime trade, which is the most important, to make it impossible for Iraq to market its oil which, in turn, brings in the revenue Iraq requires to meet its needs.

On the same subject, his excellency the Omani minister of state for foreign affairs said the basic issue right now is to impose a ban on maritime and land trade. However, if it turns out that, for example, Iraq is transporting weapons by air, the international community may be invited to take the necessary measures to prevent Iraq from having access to weapons by air.

Responding to a question on the expected meeting between Presidents Bush and Gorbachev, His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi said he expects the outcome of that meeting to give more support for the UN Security Council resolutions. This will be a message to the Iraqi Government which emphasizes the need for an Iraqi troop withdrawal from Kuwait and for restoring the legitimate government, he said.

For his part, the British foreign secretary denied that there is hesitation and fluctuation in the Soviet and Chinese stands. He said the two countries have approved the UN Security Council resolution and complied with the boycott.

The British foreign secretary had conveyed a verbal message from British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to His Highness President Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan of the United Arab Emirates. The message dealt with the current situation in the Gulf region.

The British foreign secretary said his government is not willing to negotiate over the UN Security Council resolutions with Iraq. He added that Baghdad has to implement these resolutions before embarking on any negotiations.

More Refugees Leave Baghdad, Kuwait

Qatari Plane Departs

NC0409183590 Paris AFP in English 1814 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 4 (AFP)—An Iraqi Airways jet chartered by the embassy of Qatar, left Baghdad early Tuesday evening for the Jordanian capital, Amman with an unknown number of foreign evacuees on board, aviation officials here said.

No details were available officially about the passengers on the Qatari chartered flight although informed sources said they were believed to be nationals of Arab Gulf states.

Another Iraqi Airways aircraft chartered by the British Embassy in Baghdad was due to take off almost immediately taking more than 100 Western hostages including 36 British women and children, 44 French nationals and 25 Americans.

Earlier Tuesday an Iraqi Airways flight left for Amman with more than 100 Westerners on board including 98 West German women and children.

UK Women, Children Arrive

LD0409222390 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 2114 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Excerpt] A convoy of British women and children arrived in the Iraqi capital Baghdad tonight after a gruelling 500-mile journey across the desert from occupied Kuwait.

The exhausted party of 150 women and 156 children completed the first stage of their freedom bid at about 8 pm british time after a 14-hour journey. The convoy of seven coaches and two cars drove to a Baghdad hotel where the women and children began the process of getting exit visas to leave the country.

British Embassy staff tried to gain access to the evacuees at the Mansoor Melia Hotel but were "very brutally" ejected at gunpoint by Iraqi soldiers, BBC TV news reported. The same bulletin quoted an unnamed woman from Maidstone, Kent, as saying: "The journey was very tiring but we are glad to be half way to getting out of the situtation."

The government is to pay for hotel rooms for the Britons until they can continue their journey by road or air to Jordan—and a flight to safety.

In London, Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave pledged no effort would be spared to obtain exit visas.

The British ambassador in Baghdad Harold Walker, and his staff, completed as many of the administrative arrangements as possible in an effort to ensure there will be no delay in the issue of visas. Mr. Walker said it was unlikely the party could be expected back in Britain before Thursday [6 Sep]. But officials stressed this depended on the full cooperation of the Iraqi authorities, which was not always certain.

British Embassy officials in Baghdad were surprised by the convoy's early arrival, said BBC reporter Roger Hearing. They tried to follow the group into the hotel, where other Britons have been held. But the officials were "very brutally" threatened with weapons and pushed out, he told the nine o'clock news. They managed to speak to some of the women and children and make a brief announcement before they were ejected.

In his statement, Mr. Waldegrave said: "Our convoy has got through safely.

"The women and children have all been through quite an ordeal. I hope they can all get some rest.

"Now for the next task—getting them exit visas and bringing them home. The embassy in Baghdad will pull out all the stops to get this done as quickly as possible.

"Everyone looks forward to seeing them home again. But please do not forget that when they are home we will still have many, many people out there, all of whom have the right to leave and should be allowed to do so."

The Foreign Office estimates there are now fewer than 2,000 Britons living in Kuwait. Today, they said a further 18 had been taken to civilian installations in the occupied country, likely to be possible targets in the event of a conflict. This brought the number taken to such installations to about 40. It was thought they have been taken mainly to oil plants and factories.

According to foreign office officials, another coachload of women and children—a number of them from Britain and Ireland—left Kuwait for the Iraqi capital shortly after the British convoy. They said about 35 foreign nationals were aboard the coach for a freedom bid organised by the Australian authorities. The party was thought to consist of six Australian women and six children, one Canadian woman, seven Irish women and four children, and nine British women and two children.

An Iraqi airways plane left Baghdad for the Jordanian capital Amman tonight carrying more than 100 women and children, most of them from Britain, France and the United States, REUTERS reported. The passengers on board the Boeing 737 included 36 Britons and 25 Americans. The plane was chartered jointly by the U.S. and British Embassies in Baghdad.

At Amman, a Virgin Atlantic jumbo jet is waiting to pick up the britons and other westerners. [passage omitted]

Women, Children Leave Baghdad

JN0409202490 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2005 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] In implementation of President Saddam Husayn's instructions to allow the guests of Iraq to travel to their countries or stay in Iraq according to their wishes, a new group of foreign women and children left Baghdad today.

In statements to INA, the guests of Iraq praised the hospitality they received during their stay in Iraq and the

services extended to them. They described President Saddam Husayn's initiative to give them the freedom to leave Iraq or to stay as a humanitarian initiative, reflecting Iraq's policies and desire to realize comprehensive peace in the region and the world.

Last Saturday [1 September], the first group of foreign women and children left Baghdad pursuant to President Saddam Husayn's instructions to allow them to go home.

British Plane Leaves for Amman

NC0409204890 Paris AFP in English 2042 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 4 (AFP)—An Iraqi Airways plane left Baghdad late Tuesday for Amman with 122 foreign women and children on board, aviation sources in the Iraqi capital said.

On board the plane, chartered by British embassy in Baghdad, were 44 French nationals, 36 Britons and 25 Americans, reliable sources said. The nationalities of the other passengers were not known.

It was the third planeload of foreigners evacuated from Baghdad in Iraqi planes during the day.

Earlier Tuesday an Iraqi plane, chartered by West Germany, flew 150 foreign women and children, mainly West Germans, from Baghdad to the Jordanian capital.

Another Iraqi plane, this time chartered by Qatar, left later for Amman but no information was available about the number or nationalities of those on board, who came, according to reliable sources here, from Arab Gulf states.

Tribunal Forms To 'Try' President Bush

JN0109182290 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1710 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] Arrangements are now in place to set up a popular tribunal to try U.S. President George Bush in line with the International Declaration on Human Rights. Announcing this, Hamid Sliah al-Rawi, doyen of Iraq's Bar Assocation, explained that, since assuming office, George Bush has committed terrible crimes against humanity and against people aspiring to decent, dignified lives free from imperialist and Zionist domination of peoples' resources. He has also engaged in ugly acts contrary to international law and the International Declaration on Human Rights and other international conventions. He has relentlessly pursued a policy of exterminating peoples, dominating world countries and organizations, and subjugating the United Nations to his imperialist policies, now that he is unchallenged in the international arena.

President Bush has adopted numerous measures characterized by flouting the UN Charter and international agreements and conventions pertinent to the freedom and self-determination of peoples and their right to exploit their resources. He has also adopted measures that have imperiled world peace and security, and violated the aims and principles of the United Nations, including the following:

First, his aggression against and occupation of Grenada, and his merciless killing of women and children without any entitlement to such behavior, which runs counter to human rights and people's independence. This counts as a crime as defined by the first item of Article 2 on crimes against humanity issued by the United Nations in 1974.

Second, his brazen aggression against Panama, and the piracy commited by his armed forces in violation of all international norms and laws, as well as toppling its regime and arresting the head of state, trying him according to American laws in breach of extradition treaties and principles. This is a drop in the ocean of the crimes that George Bush has perpetrated against humanity and people.

Having consulted with legal Arab and international organizations and human rights groups, arrangements have been made to set up a popular tribunal to try U.S. President George Bush, according to the clauses of the International Declaration on Human rights, including the right of attorney.

[Signed] Hamid Salih al-Rawi, doyen of the Iraqi Bar Association

Bar, Jurists Union Discuss 'Trial'

JN0509091190 Baghdad INA in English 0949 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 4, INA—The Iraqi Bar and Jurists Unions and the Human Rights Association met here to discuss formation a people's court to try American President George Bush in accordance with the International Declaration of Human Rights.

In a statement to INA, Vice Chairman of Iraqi Lawyers Hamid al-Rawi said that several Arab and foreign personalities were contacted to participate in this court as members of the court, prosecution and defence bodies and as observers.

He added that the preparatory committee for the trial has decided to arrange the complaint and indictment bills which cover the legal and political aspects of indictment.

Mr. al-Rawi further said that it has been also agreed that complainant representing Iraqi youth, women and children would attend the trial in addition to religious men whose complaints cover the defilement of Islamic sanctities in addition to representatives from Iraqi Red Crescent, doctors and pharmacists and listening to representatives from the Palestinian and Libyan peoples in their capacity as victims of the American aggression.

The lawyers vice chairman added that Arab and international organizations and personalities would be contacted to define the final formula of the court body and fix date and venue for its sittings.

Tariq 'Aziz Comments on Roland Dumas' Statements

JN0409202090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1950 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Sep (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has commented on statements made by French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas in which he called for bringing Iraqis to international trial. In a statement to INA, 'Aziz said:

The one who must be tried before an international court is President Bush and his allies, who imposed a blockade to cut off food and medicine in order to kill children, women, and men, and not the brave Iraqis, who reject aggression on the holy lands of the Arabs and Muslims in Hejaz and Najd [Saudi Arabia] and who are facing the invasion forces with courage and vigor. These empty statements do not scare us, and those who make such statements will regret them when it is too late.

INA Editor Responds to Cheney Remarks

JN0409205290 Baghdad in Arabic 1935 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Sep (INA)—Responding to remarks by U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney to the American television network NBC today, the international affairs editor of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY says: We are not surprised by what the U.S. defense secretary has said or by his analysis of Iraq's military power and the free decision-making of leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him. Cheney was not mistaken in what he said. President Saddam Husayn is the symbol and loyal son of the people, and he is the commander in chief of the Armed Forces. Iraq was not mistaken when it built its great military force to deter aggression and harm, and to maintain the dignity of the Arab nation and Iraq's sovereignty. The farsighted view of the course of the conflict in the region and the ambitions of the United States and its Zionist ally required a great degree of caution and necessary measures to build the Army and strengthen the people.

However, we scoff at what the U.S. defense secretary has said as well as the inaccuracy of U.S. mass media, which show the shallow thinking and narrow-mindedness of the U.S. defense secretary.

Instead of dealing with the details of the honorable and great personal history of President Saddam Husayn, he should have told the Americans how they will receive the coffins of their dead if they are deluded into committing aggression against Iraq. He should have talked about the U.S. planes which, with God's help, have begun to fall before any fighting. He should have talked about the deteriorating morale, the complaints about the heat of the desert, the lack of services, and the brawls between the commanders of the U.S. Army and the army of the betrayer of the two holy mosques over who will lead the other.

Nevertheless, Iraq will remain a steadfast force and minaret that lights the path to freedom for Arabs and honorable people in the world and to peaks of glory to confront the schemes of the evil Americans, Zionists, and two suspect allies: the betrayer of the two holy mosques and Husni Mubarak.

Officer Answers Israeli Commander's Remarks

JN0409210490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1940 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Sep (INA)—Air Force Lieutenant General Hamid Sha'ban, adviser to the presidency, has answered a question by INA about statements made by Israeli Air Force Commander Avihu Bin-Nun. Bin-Nun had said that the Israeli Air Force had been placed on a maximum state of alert, that the Iraqi Air Force was the biggest in the Arab world in terms of quantity and quality, and that it was even bigger than the British, French, or German Air Forces, enjoying eight years of experience in the war against Iran. These statements contradicted an earlier assessment by Israeli President Hayim Herzog, who tried to downgrade the Iraqi Armed Forces and the Iraqi Air Force.

Lt. Gen. Hamid Sha'ban said that Israel is experiencing confusion in its assessment of Iraq's overall military capability. Sometimes it overplays this capability to frighten the West and blackmail it into providing further arms and technology to raise Israel's military capability. This happened particularly before 2 August 1990. At other times, Israel tries to underplay Iraq's military capability, including that of the Air Force, with a view to pushing a speedy U.S. strike. This happened after 2 August and the aim was to embroil the United States in such an act that Israel may achieve its goals of weakening Iraq's military capability regardless of the tragedy and destruction that will befall the Americans and the world. This shows the extent of the moral degradation of Israel's leaders, who justify all means to achieve their own ends.

Air Force Lt. Gen. Hamid Sha'ban added: At any rate, our Armed Forces and heroic Air Force are a source of pride to Iraqis because by sacrificing their blood, they gained experience through a war that lasted eight years, this in addition to other characteristics of these forces. Irrespective of their weaponry, the Israeli Armed Forces lack a similar experience.

At any rate, the truth can be discovered in the battlefield if the battle is to occur and we pray that God will spare humanity such a battle. But we welcome struggle, jihad, and martyrdom if God wants these people to practice them.

Lt. Gen. Sha'ban concluded his statement to INA by saying: As far as we are concerned, we insist that our Armed Forces and Air Force are of the kind that every loyal Arab citizen, every zealous Muslim, and all the brave Iraqis can take pride in. We consider Bin-Num's statement about the leader president as a kind of terrorism that must be met with the force it deserves and by any means.

Ministry Spokesman Responds to French Counterpart

JN0409204290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Sep (INA)—In response to statements by the French Foreign Ministry spokesman on 3 September which included many scandalous fallacies regarding how Iraqi views an Arab solution and the travel of women and children, an official Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman told INA:

Iraq has been seeking and still seeks a comprehensive Arab solution to all the issues in the region. Iraq sees an Arab solution as the only one suitable for the situation in the region. The continuation of the military invasion by the United States and Western states, along with the forces allied with them, is what complicates the situation further or what could lead to an explosion in the region threatening their interests and those of other countries in the world.

As regards the travel of foreign women and children, Iraq, along with the embassies concerned, has sought through all available means to secure their travel. All functioning border crossings are open for them to leave. Iraqi Airways is also ready to lease its planes to transport them to any city they want to travel to.

Tariq 'Aziz Leaves for Working Visit in Moscow

JN0509055190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0546 GMT 5 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Sep (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Baghdad today for Moscow on a short working visit to the USSR.

Water Pipeline To Run To Al-Mitla'

JN0409133090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1032 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Basra, 4 Sep (INA)—The Ministry of Local Government and Baghdad Municipality have begun the implementation of a project to supply pure water from the Shatt al-'Arab to al-Mitla' subdistrict in the valiant Governorate of al-Basrah at a cost of more than $30 million.

The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY has learned that the project includes the laying of 400-mm diameter pipes over 100 kilometers and the building of 40 reservoirs, each with a capacity of 224 cubic meters, two pumping stations, and 10 tanker filling stations [shabakat iktiyal] along the line.

This project is considered a vital project and will be completed by the end of this month [September], that is, 25 working days, in order to supply potable water to that area, which was cut away from Iraq by colonialism and which was returned to lofty Iraq by the wisdom and will of President Saddam Husayn, his people, and their valiant armed forces.

Tariq 'Aziz on Arab Solution to Crisis

PM0409154090 Paris LE FIGARO in French 31 Aug 90 p 3

[Interview with Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz by Claude Lorieux in Baghdad—date not given]

[Text] [Lorieux] Two days before your meeting with Perez de Cuellar, the Baghdad newspapers announced that Kuwait has become Iraq's 19th province, from the administrative viewpoint. It would seem that you wanted to sabotage this meeting with the UN secretary general....

['Aziz] That is at most an administrative decision. Mr. Perez de Cuellar knows that the decision to unite Kuwait and Iraq was made on 8 August, which is three weeks ago.

[Lorieux] The Security Council has asked the secretary general to discuss with you the four resolutions which it has adopted, notably the one which demands the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait. It is increasingly difficult to see how Mr. Perez de Cuellar and you could have a useful discussion.

['Aziz] I know Mr. Perez de Cuellar well. We worked together a great deal during the Iraq-Iran war. When the situation seemed to be in deadlock, the secretary general presented the two governments with papers and notes. That method enabled the two sides to have discussions nonetheless. I know that Mr. Perez de Cuellar wants to do something in the present crisis. But, in fact, I do not know what he has in mind. At all events, I intend to remind him of the way in which we worked during the war.

[Lorieux] On 19 August, President Saddam Husayn asked for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Saudi Arabia and in exchange proposed that "the Arab world should deal with the Kuwait affair as an Arab problem." In view of the lack of success of Arab initiatives on the Lebanese question and on the West Sahara question, there is little reason for optimism.

['Aziz] The U.S. defense secretary's visit to Saudi Arabia on 6 August put paid to a meeting which President Saddam Husayn was due to attend in Jeddah. Later, at the Arab summit in Cairo, President Mubarak and the Saudi delegation closed the door to any Arab solution. It is therefore premature to say that an Arab solution is impossible. It has not been given a chance. It must be given a chance. We are convinced that it will lead to a better understanding of the situation in the Gulf.

[Lorieux] Do you mean a better understanding of the fact that Kuwait is an integral part of Iraq?

['Aziz] That is in fact my government's position.

[Lorieux] So, an Arab solution can only lead to ratification of a fait accompli?

['Aziz] That is a hypothetical question. It is too soon to answer such questions. Wait for a meeting and for discussions to start....

[Lorieux] King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat are talking of sending an Arab force to the region. Could it relieve your troops in Kuwait?

['Aziz] Arab troops ought to be deployed where the foreign troops are currently deployed. Saudi Arabia brought in the latter because it said it was threatened by Iraq. We are prepared to give it every possible guarantee. But if the Saudis want to feel even more secure, they can call on an Arab force to relieve the U.S. force.

[Lorieux] Could that Arab force enter Kuwait—your 19th province?

['Aziz] Do not forget that all the troops in Iraq are Arab troops (he laughed—LE FIGARO editor's note).

[Lorieux] Yasir 'Arafat has put forward the idea of a referendum on Kuwait's status....

['Aziz] He did not mention it to me in Baghdad the other day. These are all ideas which are circulating. What we need is a meeting among Arab leaders to try to find a solution to the whole Gulf crisis. It is impossible to limit it to the events of 2 August and to say nothing about the huge U.S. and Western military presence around us. The Western leaders are beating the drums of war. The French prime minister is talking of war. We are witnessing a Western crusade without precedent since the Franco-British-Israeli aggression against Egypt in 1956 after the nationalization of the Suez canal.

[Lorieux] How can you portray this crisis as a confrontation between the United States and Iraq when at least 87 of the 159 UN members agree with the embargo?

['Aziz] The United States is the only superpower in the world. That is a situation which does not frighten us but which we oppose. Many countries have to accept it because they need American money or they fear U.S. destabilization maneuvers. This situation is strengthened by the Soviet Union's absence. All that shows that the countries which are rallying round George Bush are not doing so out of moral or legal convictions, but because they are aware of the balance of forces in the world.

[Lorieux] The annexation of Kuwait is the first disappearance of a state in the region since the end of the Ottoman Empire. Many governments are worried by it.

['Aziz] In 1930, Kuwait City was merely a village of mud houses. How could it have such a vast territory? But the British knew that the area was full of oil. They drew the borders to ensure they had as much as possible inside. The Franco-German or Turkish-Iraqi borders have historical and geographical meaning. Kuwait's borders do not. They are a British invention.

[Lorieux] But, in that case, why not also annex the United Arab Emirates and Qatar?

['Aziz] Kuwait belonged to Iraq for 1,000 years. That is not true of Qatar which may have been part of the Kingdom of al-Madinah in the Arabian Peninsula. If Saudi Arabia claimed Qatar as part of its territory, I would support its claim. I say that frankly. Qatar does not have any historical reality.

[Lorieux] Why are the foreigners living in Kuwait being treated more harshly than those living in Iraq?

['Aziz] We have obligations toward foreigners working in Iraq, and they have obligations toward us. We consequently give them special treatment. But those working in Kuwait had no obligations toward us and we have none toward them.

[Lorieux] The hostage problem exists.

['Aziz] I am categorically opposed to talking about hostages. We have never told their governments that we would allow them to leave in exchange for a ransom.

[Lorieux] The word hostage is not linked only to the idea of a ransom.

['Aziz] In Arabic we use the word rahina. I will explain it to you. It is as if a madman threatened to kill your family and, by chance, that individual's wife was near you. You seize her and place her opposite that man who is threatening you with his gun. If you want to call the madman's wife a hostage, you are free to do so. I do not. In fact, all you are asking is that the man should stop threatening you. The same is true of Iraq. And you know that there is nothing in common between the hostages you have seen returning from Lebanon and the people we are keeping here or on some installations to prevent the Americans and their allies from perpetrating a crime.

[Lorieux] They are nonetheless prisoners in Iraq.

['Aziz] Call them what you wish. Our intentions are noble. But you can have your own scale of values, as we have ours.

[Lorieux] On Tuesday evening, the foreign women and children were authorized to leave Iraq. When will that decision by President Husayn be implemented?

['Aziz] Officials went to the strategic installations on Wednesday to inform the foreign families. Some women may not want to leave their husbands. We will not force them to do so. The officials have drawn up lists. Those who are leaving should receive their exit visas today if they did not receive them yesterday (Thursday—LE FIGARO editor's note).

[Lorieux] Does this measure also apply to the foreign women and children living in Kuwait?

['Aziz] Yes, all foreign women and children up to the age of 18.

[Lorieux] A British cameraman was detained as he was leaving Baghdad the other day. Can you guarantee that all the foreign correspondents who have come to Baghdad since 2 August will be able to leave Iraq freely?

['Aziz] Yes.

[Lorieux] Without restrictions?

['Aziz] Yes. And not only the journalists, but anybody who has come to Iraq on business since 2 August will be able to leave.

[Lorieux] You are detaining here foreigners, notably Frenchmen, who remained in Baghdad when the Iranian bombs were falling. Your credibility has been undermined....

['Aziz] I understand these difficulties.

[Lorieux] But you may have jeopardized the future of economic cooperation between your country and the West?

['Aziz] People must show understanding. We have been in power for 22 years. All those who have had business contacts with us know how Iraq treats foreigners in normal times. An unprecedented foreign threat has forced us to take precautions. Once the risk of war has been removed, what will those people remember? A very short period in which they were treated in an extraordinary way, or the 22 years which preceded that interlude?

[Lorieux] By severing ties with Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] in 1983, you renounced terrorism. That was a historic turning point for Iraq. However, men like Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas], and groups like Hizballah have heard Baghdad's recent call for holy war. Do you still categorically reject terrorism?

['Aziz] That depends on the Western world's attitude. If it declares war on us, our obligations toward it end.

Either we decide to behave in a civilized way toward each other, respecting international law and peaceful coexistence. In that case we say that acts of terrorism should be outlawed. Indeed, we would like the Arab peoples to live in peace with other peoples.

Or the Arab people are threatened with genocide. In that case, why should we worry about U.S. interests in the region? Why should I worry about France's stability if Paris sends its warships to bomb Iraq and kill Iraqis? We must be fair. If we are given a chance to live in peace, we will do everything we can to safeguard the peaceful relations between our nation and your nations. But if you do not give us that chance, if you use imperialist methods, if you threaten Iraq with your ships and planes, then I am free from any moral obligation toward the French, American, or British governments.

[Lorieux] Is it still possible to save some aspect of the preferential relations which have existed between Iraq and France since 1974?

['Aziz] I have never asked France to side with us in the Kuwait affair. But we thought that it would behave differently from the United States and Britain. Its attitude shocked us. We have been reminded of France's whole imperialist past, whereas the Near East policy of De Gaulle, Pompidou, Giscard d'Estaing and, at first, even Francois Mitterrand was clearly different from that of the United States.

For around 20 years, France maintained good relations with the Gulf amirs and with Iraq. We are now witnessing a confrontation within the Arab world: on the one hand the independent forces of the progressives and on the other corrupt and reactionary monarchs. France has made its choice.

[Lorieux] President Hafiz al-Asad and President Husni Mubarak are not corrupt monarchs, to the best of my knowledge.

['Aziz] The confrontation is not with them. They have agreed to become the servants of the kings and shaykhs. France has made a choice. The presence of Mubarak and Al-Asad changes nothing.

[Lorieux] France hesitated before committing itself fully alongside the Americans. Your decision to detain foreigners made a major contribution to that....

['Aziz] I am not convinced of that. That is an excuse which some French officials are making because they do not want to cut all links—not so much with Iraq, because virtually all have been cut, but with the other Arabs. Believe me, the government and many of its members are being misled and making the biggest mistake with regard to the Arab world since 1956.

More POW's Arrive in Baghdad From Iran

17th Group 30 Aug

JN3108093390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1805 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 30 Aug (INA)—The 17th batch of Iraqi prisoners of war [POW's] returning to the homeland arrived at the al-Munthiriyah border area this evening. [passage omitted]

21st Group 3 Sep

JN0309185490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1810 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Sep (INA)—This afternoon the 21st batch of Iraqi prisoners arrived home. Our returning prisoners of war were accorded an official and popular reception in which various popular and mass organizations and citizens took part.

Also this afternoon, a new batch of Iranian prisoners—whom Iraq has decided to release in accordance with President Saddam Husayn's letter to Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on 15 August—was handed over today.

22nd Group 4 Sep

JN0409193890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 4 Sep (INA)—The 22d batch of Iraqi prisoners of war [POW's] returned to the homeland this evening. [passage omitted]

A new batch of Iranian POW's was handed over today [to the International Committee of the Red Cross] pursuant to Iraq's decision to release POW's in accordance with the message President Saddam Husayn sent to Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani on 15 August.

Arens Returns From FRG; Husayn Meeting Denied

TA0309205390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] This evening Defense Minister Moshe Arens and Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri returned to Israel after a 24-hour visit to Bonn. Mr. Arens told our correspondent Karmela Menashe that he discussed the Gulf crisis with Chancellor Kohl. He added that the issue of submarines for Israel was not discussed.

[Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 3 September carries a report from Bonn by Yig'al Rom saying: "For many reporters here, there was no doubt that it was no accident that the Arens visit took place on the very same day that King Husayn came for a quick visit to Bonn. The Israeli Embassy was flooded with questions about an alleged secret meeting between Arens and Husayn, and denied it altogether." The report adds that "it is reasonable to assume that Minister Arens asked Chancellor Kohl to convince King Husayn that a diplomatic effort on the Gulf crisis would not be enough, and that Saddam Husayn must go, or his military might must be diminished. Otherwise, sooner or later, this will hurt both Israel and Jordan."]

Soviet Conference Proposal Will Be Studied

TA0409122390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has called for an international conference on the Gulf crisis and said Israel's attendance would be important. According to the official news agency, TASS, Shevardnadze told a Moscow conference on Soviet-Asian relations the USSR would consider resuming diplomatic relations with Israel if Jerusalem agreed to such a conference.

In Jerusalem, initial reactions to the proposal were cautious, but it was not rejected out of hand, as we hear in this report from Jack Katzenell:

[Begin recording] Just a few minutes ago the prime minister, who was touring a technological school in Jerusalem, said that Israel will study the Soviet proposal when it receives all the details, but the prime minister stressed again that Israel is not party to the crisis in the Gulf, to the conflict in the Gulf. He said this also this morning to a gathering of the Israel Bonds leaders. This is the main theme of the Israeli position, the low profile which Israel is keeping. Also his bureau chief, Yosi Ahime'ir, said when the proposal is submitted officially through diplomatic channels, we'll think about it. He also stressed that Israel is not involved in the Gulf crisis. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 4 September, in reporting on Shamir's remarks, adds that the prime minister said that "although Israel is not located in the Gulf, he does not rule out a conference" like the one suggested by the Soviets."]

Knesset Member Zalman Shoval, who is ambassador-designate to Washington, says Israel should not agree to participate in an international conference on the Gulf crisis because she is not a party to the dispute. Shoval told a Voice of Israel reporter there is more than a hint at an attempt to link the Palestinian issue to the Gulf crisis.

Shamir Comments on Proposal

TA0409180290 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Yoram Ronen and political reporter Shlomo Ganor on 4 September; place not given—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Shamir] I have not yet received this proposition. We will make a decision after we hear and examine it in detail.

[Ronen] Do you mean that you are not rejecting outright an international conference on this issue?

[Shamir] On the Persian Gulf, yes. I believe that Israel is not in the Gulf.

[Ganor] Mr. Shamir, will israel ask the United States to write off its debt as it did with Egypt?

[Shamir] We will ask for things similar to this.

[Ganor] Could the meeting of Foreign Minister Levi with the U.S. secretary of state tomorrow mark a breakthrough in the political process?

[Shamir] I would not like to predict the future. I wish both interlocutors success, mainly to our foreign minister.

[Ganor] Has the political process been set aside in view of the Gulf developments?

[Shamir] I do not think that setting aside is the right expression to describe the state of affairs as they are. Naturally, in every situation, priorities are different.

[Ganor] Is the political process still topping the list of Israel's priorities?

[Shamir] The first priority of the Israeli Government today is aliyah and its absorption.

[Ganor] And what would become of the political process?

[Shamir] It is one of the major issues.

[Ganor] But not the first?

[Shamir] I have already stated the first issue: aliyah and absorption. This is above everything else.

Earlier Proposal Termed Not Serious

TA0409184690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has called for an international conference to solve the Gulf crisis and the Arab-Israel conflict, and called upon

Israel to attend. An earlier report attributed to the official news agency TASS, in which Shevardnadze was alleged to have invited Israel to an international conference on the Gulf crisis only, turned out to be incorrect.

Reacting to the later version of the Shevardnadze proposal, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said it could not be taken seriously, and that Israel was opposed to an international conference on the Middle East. In Jerusalem, the proposal in its first version was received with caution, while in its second and final version, it is a nonstarter. Jack Katzenell reports:

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said this morning he would be prepared to consider the idea of an international conference on the Gulf crisis, but under no circumstances would Israel attend an international conference on the Arab-Israel dispute. If the Soviet foreign minister's proposal were submitted through official channels, it would be studied carefully.

It was not until the afternoon that the fuller version of Foreign Minister Shevardnadze's statement became known. When it emerged that the Arab-Israel conflict was included in the proposal, as well as the Gulf crisis, prime minister spokesman Avi Pazner said this is another attempt to create an artificial link between the two issues. Israel's rejection of the idea of an international conference on the Arab-Israel conflict is unchanged, Pazner said. [passage omitted]

Levi Leaves for Washington To Meet With Baker

TA0409054890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi flew to New York last night and is scheduled to meet Secretary of State James Baker in Washington tomorrow. On what he can expect reporter Jack Katzenell:

According to reports reaching Jerusalem, the feeling in the State Department is that this is precisely the time to promote the Israeli peace initiative to show the Palestinians that it is the United States that looks out for their interests and that they should adopt the diplomatic approach with Washington, Cairo, and Jerusalem rather than the belligerent approach of Saddam Husayn.

Last week, Israel's ambassador in Washington sent a telegram to Jerusalem with an evaluation of the kind of reception which Foreign Minister Levi is likely to encounter. According to reports that have been appearing here, the ambassador predicted that David Levi would not be asked tough or embarrassing questions during his Washington talks and that Secretary Baker would show more understanding for the Israeli position that it is not enough to hold a dialogue with the Palestinians since the real obstacle to peace lies in those Arab countries which have not yet abandoned their belligerent intentions towards Israel. However, an authoritative source in Jerusalem told me that Ambassador Moshe Arad was much more cautious. It is true, the source said, that the Gulf crisis has had a sobering effect on the Americans and changed their perceptions of Saddam Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat, but this does not mean the United States has become complacent about the Palestinian issue. The atmosphere in Washington has certainly improved from Israel's point of view. Foreign Minister Levi will not be faced with a blunt demand for a yes-or-no answer to the Baker questions, but the United States is still interested in hearing how Israel intends to promote its own peace initiative.

Will Seek Help Against Soviet Plan

TA0209093590 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 2 Sep 90 p 1

[Report by Hemi Shalev and Dalya Refa'el]

[Excerpt] Political sources in Jerusalem fear that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev intends to propose to U.S. President George Bush that an international conference on the problems of the Middle East, including the Israeli-Arab conflict, be convened.

Foreign Minister David Levi, who will be departing for Washington tomorrow night, will seek to dissuade the U.S. Administration from complying with Gorbachev's proposal. Levi will emphasize Israel's willingness to launch a political process at once, and will offer to hold a meeting with a Palestinian delegation which would be composed on a name-by-name basis through consultations among the United States, Egypt, and Israel, without seeking the PLO's approval. Officials in Jerusalem hope that Israel's willingness to hold such a meeting will lead to the rejection of the proposal to summon an international conference, which is expected to be raised in the Bush-Gorbachev summit in Helsinki next week. [passage omitted]

To Demand U.S. Security Commitment

TA0509063990 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 5 Sep 90 p 5

[Report by Ron Ben-Yishay and Rami Tal in Washington]

[Excerpts] Israel will demand from the United States a firm commitment that the increasingly close relations between Washington and the Arab bloc that supports it in the Gulf crisis will not be at Israel's expense nor harm its security.

If Israel does not receive a commitment from the U.S. Administration to that effect, a high-level Israeli political source said, Israel might reconsider the "low profile" policy it is taking at the request of the United States regarding the Gulf crisis.

In their meeting today in Washington, Foreign Minister David Levi will inform James Baker, his U.S. counterpart, of Israel's concern over the growing tendency in the administration to give top priority to closer relations with the Arab states, at the expense of Israel's vital interests. According to U.S. officials, Secretary Baker

will try to reassure Israel, but he will stress to Mr. Levi the need to make progress in solving the Palestinian problem. Still, it is believed in Washington that the administration will not at this stage pressure Israel to resume the peace process. [passage omitted

In order to prevent an erosion in Israel's positions and the U.S. commitment to Israel's security, Minister Levi will raise several demands with the U.S. Administration:

—In the immediate future, Israel is demanding greater coordination and consultation between Washington and Jerusalem on all issues linked to the Gulf crisis, since if fighting breaks out in the Gulf, Saddam Husayn might try to attack Israel in order to drag it unwillingly into the whirlpool.

—Israel is demanding that the administration take immediate practical steps so that it can maintain its military deterrence in the wake of the Iraqi threat and the speeded-up procurement by the Gulf states of upgraded U.S. arms. Mr. Levi wants the additional military aid to be provided as a grant, since Israel is incapable of taking upon itself an additional debt burden while trying to absorb the wave of Soviet immigrants.

—Israel wants tighter intelligence cooperation over the Iraq threat.

—In the long term, Israeli fears are focused on the political field. Jerusalem believes that if and when the Gulf crisis ends with the overthrow of Saddam Husayn, the United States will for many years need the goodwill of the Arab countries and will want to build up the prestige of the regimes that supported it. The United States, which will emerge strengthened from the crisis, might together with the USSR impose on Israel a settlement of the conflict with the Palestinians and the Arab states. That is why Minister Levi is going to demand:

a. A U.S. promise not to call on Israel to make unilateral concessions, but to use its influence in the Arab world to advance simultaneously a settlement between Israel and the Arab states and between Israel and the Palestinians. Top priority should be given to a settlement between Israel and the Arab states and not the Palestinian problem, according to Levi.

b. A U.S. commitment to hold off applying pressure on Israel by presenting it to the U.S. public as hard-line and unreceptive to compromises.

c. Levi will propose that Baker's five-point initiative for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue will be replaced with a new initiative that will prevent the PLO from participating in talks.

The evaluation in Jerusalem is that Washington also understands that the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue with the participation of 'Arafat or his emissaries is not realistic at present.

David Levi hopes to divert the focus of the Israeli-U.S. dialogue to the political field and to bring about greater coordination and cooperation over the long run. For that purpose he hopes to create a personal and credible channel of dialogue between himself and the U.S. secretary of state. [passage omitted]

Arens Calls For More U.S. Military Aid

TA0509054290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 5 Sep 90

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens has called for an increase in military aid from the United States. Addressing an Israel Bonds dinner in Jerusalem last night, Arens said Israel has very significant additional defense expenses as a result of the Gulf crisis.

[Begin Arens recording] The significant increase in expenditures that we have been involved in these past few weeks, and I tell you as defense minister, they are very significant: When we start flying a lot of airplanes, once we increase our preparedness, when we place orders for ammunition, as you have to in order to maintain the kind of alert that we are in today; all that costs money. I think that it is only appropriate that there be burden sharing, as far as Israel is concerned as well, from Israel's friends. It won't come from Saudi Arabia, but I think it should come from the United States, and I hope it will come from the United States. [end recording]

Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu says any attempt to link the Gulf crisis with the Arab-Israeli conflict is a distortion of reality and plays into the hands of Saddam Husayn. Netanyahu was reacting to the proposal by Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze to convene an international conference which would deal with all the disputes in the region.

Source Denies Planes Monitor Saudi Arabia

JN3108182290 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1803 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] A responsible military source has categorically denied the report REUTER attributed to an Israeli military source claiming that Jordan has sent reconnaissance planes over the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on behalf of Iraq so as to monitor the movement of foreign and Arab forces there.

The Jordanian military source also denied the Israeli source's statement that the Royal Jordanian Air Force had increased reconnaissance flights on its borders, adding that the activity of the Royal Jordanian Air Force has not changed.

More Refugees Arrive in Amman from Iraq, Kuwait

Egyptian Buses Allowed Into Port

NC3108145990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1354 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Al-'Aqabah, 31 Aug (MENA)—Authorities in the Jordanian port of al-'Aqabah today released the 26 Egyptian buses which arrived in al-'Aqabah on board the ferry al-'Arish the day before yesterday. The buses were sent to help transport Egyptians returning from Kuwait and Iraq to al-'Aqabah port from the al-Ruwayshid crossing point on the Jordanian-Iraqi border.

The release followed contacts between officials at the Egyptian Embassy in Amman and senior Jordanian officials.

Jordan had banned the entry of any Egyptian bus which did not belong to the al-Jisr al-'Arabi Company and the Arab Land Transport Federation Company.

Approximately 150,000 Egyptians have thus far been transported by buses from al-Ruwayshid to Amman and al-'Aqabah airports and the Egyptian port of Nuwaybi' in preparation for their trip home.

In another development, Ahmad 'Id al-Hayari, director of al-'Aqabah customs office, has stated that Egyptians returning from Saudi Arabia will be permitted to board the ferries which will take them home without having to go through customs at al-'Aqabah.

He added that Egyptians returning from Kuwait and Iraq through the al-Ruwayshid crossing will also not be searched.

The Jordanian official noted that the al-'Aqabah customs authority and the Egyptian consulate in al-'Aqabah are maintaining close cooperation to facilitate matters for Egyptian returnees. He noted in this context that he had agreed to the Egyptian consulate's request to extend the deadline for Egyptians returning with their cars from one week to three.

The Jordanian official added that any Egyptian whose car is impounded will be given one year to submit documents proving ownership of the car. Otherwise, the car will be sold at public auction and the money will go to the [Jordanian] state.

Egyptians Cross Border

NC3108184790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1740 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Amman, 31 Aug (MENA)—Over the past 12 hours, 3,566 Egyptians arrived in Jordan via the al-Ruwayshid crossing point on the Iraqi border. They will travel to al-'Aqabah and Amman aboard a fleet of Egyptian and Jordanian buses prior to their departure for Egypt via the airlift linking the al-'Aqabah and Amman airports and the ferry line operating between the Jordanian port of al-'Aqabah and the Egyptian ports of Nuwaybi' and Suez.

Seven Egyptian and Saudi planes left Amman airport carrying 1,105 Egyptian citizens, while 300 more Egyptians flew to Cairo from al-'Aqabah airport this morning, and another 3,220 left with their private vehicles on ferries to Nuwaybi'.

Meanwhile, 19 members of the families of Italian diplomats also arrived in Amman.

Italians Arrive From Iraq

JN3108203890 Amman Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Nineteen Italian women and children arrived in Jordan from Iraq today among the first Western citizens allowed to leave since President Saddam Husayn promised to let foreign women and children go.

Iraqi Plane Carries West Germans

NC0409161390 Paris AFP in English 1537 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Amman, Sept 4 (AFP)—An Iraqi Airways plane with around 150 women and children on board, mostly West Germans, arrived here Tuesday from Baghdad, as Western countries started to use Iraqi aircraft for evacuation.

A group of 100 West Germans, including 98 who had arrived in Baghdad by bus from occupied Kuwait late Monday, were on board the plane, diplomatic sources said. They were expected to fly home aboard a West German military aircraft.

In Bonn, the West German foreign ministry put the number of its nationals on the flight at 116.

The plane passengers also included 19 Irish women and children, eight New Zealanders, two Britons, four Jordanians, three Indians, two Filipinos and two Egyptians, the West German Embassy here said.

Some of the women on the plane, chartered by the West German Embassy in Baghdad, were accompanied by their Iraqi husbands.

Diplomatic sources in Baghdad said the British and Qatari embassies had also chartered planes, which would head for Amman later Tuesday. But a Foreign Office spokesman denied that Britain had also chartered a plane.

The sources said a second plane from Amman was expected to evacuate a group of more than 100 Western women and children, comprising 36 Britons, 44 French nationals and 25 Americans.

There were no details available on who would travel on the third plane, reportedly chartered by Qatar.

President Saddam Husayn announced last week that foreign women and children were free to leave Iraq, although foreign men would be held to deter an attack by the U.S.-led multinational force deployed in Saudi Arabia.

Iraq announced Monday that non-Iraqi planes would not be authorized to land in Baghdad in retaliation for the trade embargo that bans Iraqi aircraft from foreign airports.

The ban is part of international sanctions against Iraq for its August 2 invasion of Kuwait.

The United States is also chartering an Iraqi plane to fly from Baghdad to Amman later Tuesday to evacuate U.S. and possibly other foreign nationals from Iraq, the Foreign Office in London said.

In Washington, the U.S. State Department would not confirm that the United States was chartering a plane.

The Foreign Office spokesman said there were seats available on the plane for British and other Europeans and said the British Embassy in Baghdad was trying to arrange for about 40 Britons with exit visas to board the flight.

Cable News Network (CNN), citing unidentified sources in Baghdad, reported earlier that foreign women and children had been instructed to gather at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad for the flight out.

The CNN report said about two dozen U.S. nationals were expected to be among 138 people aboard the plane.

The Foreign Office spokesman said Britain was also prepared to charter Iraqi aircraft "if that appears to be the most viable option" to evacuate foreigners and denied that this amounted to a breach of the sanctions against Iraq.

"These are humanitarian flights—we do not regard them" as violating the sanctions, the spokesman stressed, but he denied reports from Baghdad that Britain had already chartered an Iraqi plane, saying such a move "would be premature."

Eleven Westerners Arrive

JN0509110690 Amman Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 5 Sep 90

[Text] Eleven Westerners flew to Amman from Baghdad today. Four American women, five British women, a four-year-old girl, and a British national arrived on an Iraqi Airways flight. Earlier today a British airliner carrying 92 evacuees from Iraq landed in London after a flight from Amman. The British Foreign Office, revising earlier figures, said that the Virgin Atlantic jumbo jet had 75 Britons, 29 Americans, four Australians, and two Canadians on board.

'Source' Says Iraq Banning Returnees to Kuwait

JN0409104290 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Sep 90 p 1

[Text] Amman—Iraq is banning all those who left the country after Aug. 23, 1990, from returning regardless of their nationality or whether they were employed by the public or private sector.

An informed source told the Jordan Times that instructions had been sent to the border posts and that violators of the regulations had been turned away.

The source said those who left Iraq or Kathima (Kuwait) province before Aug. 23 should return as soon as possible or lose their jobs.

All teachers employed by the public sectors should return now since all schools and universities opened classes on Sept. 1, 1990, the source said.

Those wishing to enter Iraq for business should produce documents to support their application for entry, according to the source.

The source called on all students in Iraqi and Kuwaiti universities to return to their institutions immediately carrying their identity cards.

According to the source, citizens from countries of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) do not require a visa to enter iraq.

Thousands of Jordanian students are enrolled at Iraqi universities.

Government Negotiates on Returnees

JN0509094390 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Sep 90 pp 1, 18

[Text] Amman—Official sources have told AL-RA'Y that the Jordanian Government is holding contacts regarding the Jordanian citizens who left Iraq after 23 August, 1990, and were banned from returning, like other Arab and Asian nationals.

Informed sources at the Iraqi Embassy in Amman said that the Iraqi Government is studying the possibility of allowing all those holding valid residence permits whether they work for the government or the private sector to return to Iraq and (the Governorate of Kuwait).

It is noteworthy that hundreds of Jordanians have returned from the Iraqi land and air borders over the past two days in implementation of a [Iraqi] government decision banning all those who left Iraq after 23 August,

1990, from returning. The decision allows only those, who left before that date and who hold a valid residence permit whether they work for the government or the private sector, to return.

The Jordanian citizens appealed to the Iraqi authorities to consider their situation, especially since members of some families entered Iraq before that date and others remained outside Iraq as a result of various social circumstances. These citizens also expressed hope that the Iraqi authorities will allow them to return to Kuwait for humanitarian, social, and job-related reasons.

Saudi Consul on Entry Visas Granted to Yemenis

JN0309100890 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 1 Sep 90 p 18

[Text] Amman—The Saudi Consulate in Amman has granted around 5,000 entry visas to Yemeni citizens who have come to Jordan from Iraq in their private cars on their way home.

Mansur al-Jabiri, consul general of the Saudi Embassy in Amman, said contacts are currently underway between the Yemeni and Saudi officials to facilitate the transportation of around 25,000 Yemenis from Jordan to their country.

In a statement to AL-DUSTUR, he added that around 400 visas are granted daily, mostly to Jordanians who are truck owners, visitors, contracted workers, or seconders, and that no amendments have been made to the instructions regarding the granting of these visas.

Al-Jabiri stressed that all Jordanian and Palestinian citizens working in Saudi Arabia are being well treated and that there is no truth at all in the rumors that some of them have been dismissed from their jobs or deported from the country.

Hasan Discusses Evacuees With Red Cross Chief

JN0109124990 Amman Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan the regent received the head of the International Red Cross Committee, IRCC, Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga, at the Royal Court today. Discussion during the meeting dealt with the issue of evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait and means of coordination between the IRCC and the Jordanian authorities to ease their suffering and secure their needs while they are in Jordan on their way to their countries.

His royal highness underlined the importance of cooperation among various international humanitarian committees to help Jordan offer assistence to the massive wave of evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait.

Overcrowding 'Unacceptable'

JN0309170890 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, has toured the al-Ruwayshid area to inspect the difficult conditions of the evacuees from Kuwait and Iraq. His highness was accompanied by His Highness Chief Chamberlain Ra'd Ibn-Zayd; Mohamed Essaafi, director general of UN Disaster Relief Office; the UN resident representative in Jordan; the EC ambassadors in Amman; the chairman of the evacuees committee; the al-Mafraq governor; and a number of other representatives of international organizations and bodies, who saw for themselves the difficult human conditions of these evacuees, although the maximum level of services is being extended by the various Jordanian authorities, which are working around the clock.

Answering a question by the press on whether the international community has played its full role in the evacuees' problem, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, said: The call should clearly reach all the international organizations and the concerned governments—especially the Indian, Sri Lankan, Philippine, and other governments—that Jordan will not be able to shoulder this responsibility alone. He added that in addition to the weather problems, the overcrowded conditions in Amman and some camps are unacceptable and unreasonable.

'Scant Attention' to Situation

JN0409185690 Amman Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, told a new conference this morning that the situation of the evacuees stranded in Jordan is critical. Prince Hasan said there are still about 2 million foreigners in Iraq and Kuwait and many of them might end up in Jordan. Prince Hasan appealed to governments and international agencies to help in the relief operations, which Jordan is primarily shouldering despite its meager resources. The following is a recording of excerpts from Prince Hasan's statements:

[Begin Hasan recording] Well, ladies and gentlemen, well: The attention of the world is rightly focused on the Iraq-Kuwait crisis with particular emphasis on the fate of Western nationals held in Iraq. A human tragedy of the widest dimension has received but scant attention. I refer, of course, to the influx of tens of thousands of third state nationals from Iraq and Kuwait into Jordan. As of yesterday, third of September 1990, over 420,000 persons entered into Jordan, of whom approximately 190,000, mostly Egyptians, Yemeni, and Sudanese, subsequently left the country, while approximately 105,000 remained in Jordan.

The downtrodden of the earth, the plight of those persons, mostly nationals of the countries of the Indian subcontinent and the Philippines and Thailand, has evoked only the

faintest of responses from the world community and from a world press more interested in war scenarios than in humanitarian relief. The humanitarian duty of caring for these people has fallen mainly on Jordan, and we shall not shrink from doing what the dictates of our conscience demand, even though, as the whole world knows, this fallout of the Iraq-Kuwait crisis would not have come at a worse time for Jordan, whose citizens, through no fault of their own or of their country, have to carry the main brunt of sanctions directed against Iraq.

Although, as I indicated earlier, my country shall not shrink from extending all the humanitarian assistance that we can afford, even at the risk of spreading thin our resources, the situation is critical. While we are grateful for the assistance given to persons stranded in Jordan, both from governmental and nongovernmental agencies and bilaterally, and while we have nothing but admiration for the volunteers who pioneered relief efforts, it is obvious that much is needed and much remains to be done. We should not forget that the situation, critical as it is, may be only the tip of the iceberg. The number of foreigners in Iraq and Kuwait is, according to various estimates, around 2 million persons, a large number of whom may find themselves stranded in Jordan. This will simply be beyond the capacity of a small country like Jordan to handle.

It is incumbent on the countries, of which those now stranded in Jordan are nationals, to contribute immediately and effectively toward finding means of transport for their nationals back home. It is equally incumbent on states and international organizations to contribute food, medicine, and other necessary amenities. It is also important that relief work be coordinated, that we, therefore, express the hope that this message will receive the attention it deserves, and that everyone will assume his humanitarian responsibilities. Thank you ladies and gentlemen. I would also like to mention, although I have not had an opportunity to discuss it with the director of UNDRO [UN Disaster Relief organization], Essaafi, that I am considering an appeal to the secretary general of the United Nations to ask him to appoint a humanitarian representative specifically for this case of evacuees. And that is what I mean by coordination. We do need a focal point, an international focal point, to which this issue, which is an international issues, can be referred. That is what I have to say here this morning, and I thank you many of you, who have visited the sites and who have already expressed so much concern. I hope that all these voices collectively will be heard in the right quarters. [end recording]

Charity Warns of 'Catastrophe'

JN0409104890 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Sep 90 p 7

[Text] Amman—The French Medicins Sans Frontieres Monday [3 September] issued an urgent appeal to the international community help alleviate the suffering of evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait and warned that a "catastrophe" would strike if urgent assistance was not extended.

Describing the situation in the evacuee camps near al-Ruwayshid as the "worst I have ever seen," Medicins Sans Frontieres President Xavier Emmanuelli said: "If the international community does not pay attention, it will be a catastrophe."

Addressing a press conference at the Queen Alia international airport, Dr. Emmanuelli said exposure to the sun was the main threat to the people living in the two camps.

"These people are hostages of the desert," he said noting that most of those stranded in the camps were city dwellers not accustomed to living in the desert.

In a statement issued earlier Monday in Paris, the medical charity said ethnic tension was growing among the refugees and called on governments to bring their citizens home more quickly.

It said in a statement it was opening up a second transit camp.

Relations between the 15,000 Pakistanis, Indians, Sri Lankans, Bangladeshis and Filipinos in its existing camp were becoming strained, it said.

"Water rationing and the lack of food, added to the very high temperatures that the refugees—among whom are many women and children—have to suffer is causing the emergence of some ethnic tension," it said.

"We call urgently on international organizations to speed the return of these Asian citizens to their own countries."

It said the new camp would be next to the first one opened at al-Ruwayshid.

Official on Searches of Al-'Aqabah-Bound Ships

JN0409094390 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 4 Sep 90 pp 1, 14

[Text] Amman, AL-DUSTUR—Muhammad 'Asfur, chairman of the Amman Chamber of Commerce, has stressed the need to intensify contacts with international agencies to halt the obstructions which have begun to threaten maritime navigation heading for the port of al-'Aqabah.

In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR following a meeting yesterday of representatives of the Amman Chamber of Commerce, the Chamber of Industry, and the Union of Maritime Shipping Agents, 'Asfur added that the obstructions hindering maritime transport to the port of al-'Aqabah have become numerous. He went on to say that this might affect the activities of various sectors of the Jordanian economy.

'Asfur indicated that the Jordanian importer has begun to suffer after some foreign shipping transporters have unloaded at ports far from the port of al-'Aqabah or sold their cargoes at public auction. He added that the

searching of ships bound for the port of al-'Aqabah has had a negative effect on the port's activities and delayed the arrival of goods.

The conferees decided to maintain a continuous dialogue and exchange information on the issue. They also decided to brief the government on all the problems facing them to coordinate with it with a view to removing all of these obstructions.

Prince Hasan Interviewed by Jesse Jackson 30 Aug

JN3108075990 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1920 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Interview with Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, by Reverend Jesse Jackson in Amman; date not specified—recorded]

[Text] [Jackson] We are here in Amman, Jordan, conducting a frank conversation with Crown Prince Hasan. Good evening.

[Hasan] Good evening.

[Jackson] The crown prince, Hasan, it seems that just a few days ago, the U.S. and Iraq were cooperating in the war with Iran. Now, here is the largest military buildup seen in the history of the Middle East. In your judgment, what broke down?

[Hasan] I think that there were a lot of messages which were misread. First of all, the Iraqis have a victorious army after the Iraq-Iran experience and have a shattered economy. And, clearly that is a recipe for potential violence, violence which Iraq sought to avert for a long period of time by saying that the economic needs of Iraq should be addressed....

[Jackson, interrupting] Do you think the invasion could have been avoided?

[Hasan] I believe so. It could have been avoided through negotiations. But, unfortunately, the Kuwaitis were given the impression that the Iraqis were not serious. And, although over many meetings and attempted summit meetings, their case was, clearly, to continue to look for time to—as an outlet to this negotiations. They were expecting, effectively, the negotiations to go on indefinitely. It appeared something exploded. And, it was, I think, very much in the air. The tension was there.

[Jackson] Do you think that the Kuwaitis underestimated the fury of the Iraqis about ....

[Hasan, interrupting] I believe so.

[Jackson, continuing his question] .... about the bilateral crisis?

[Hasan] I believe so. Indeed, yes. This was very much there, and, possibly, the reflagging experience gave them the feeling that maybe when the chips were down, they would find support from elsewhere. It didn't work this time.

[Jackson] Do you think they had like immediate contingency plans, say, from the U.S.?

[Hasan] Well, I think that the Gulf states have had contingency plans for a very long period of time. And, certainly, we were ready to offer troops in those early days of the Iraqi military action, but to interpose themselves between Kuwait if, of course, the invasion had not been total, and Iraq if Iraq had stood by the disputed area, or effectively to interpose themselves between the Iraqi troops and the Saudi troops.

[Jackson] Suggest as you suggest that the Kuwaitis underestimated the fury of the Iraqis, do you think that Saddam Husayn underestimated their response once he chose to invade Kuwait?

[Hasan] I think up to the present day he is still saying: Why this massive troop buildup, unprecedented in the post-World War history, unprecedented in the history of Arabia?

[Jackson] The suggestion in the States is that King Husayn and Mubarak and others were meeting with President Saddam Husayn, and he was saying to them that he would not invade Kuwait to the very end, and that they left, and they left, he went in, and then he said he would leave, and then said he chose to annex. He's left an image of him in the Western world as someone that you cannot believe in or trust. Is this a true characteristic of him in this part of the world?

[Hasan] I think there is a problem of idiom and even of language. What we heard him say was that: I will not use a military option unless and until negotiations have taken their course. We were never told at any time that this was in the planning. We were not aware of the invasion. But, of course, the message must have got to the Kuwaitis if it was made to others in the Arab world that: Look, he is not going to use force. Maybe they thought that he was bluffing, and that also is ...

[Jackson, interrupting] Is there a point at which you feel, therefore, that the negotiations broke down, something happened to spark this reaction by Iraq?

[Hasan] Well, there is a long historical background to the problem. Negotiations, yes, did break down. There was an attempt to hold a summit meeting, including the king of Saudi Arabia, the amir of Kuwait, and other Gulf rulers during June of this year that didn't come about. So, certainly, there have been a number of diplomatic mishaps, and the tragedy is, therefore, to see as the result of that.

[Jackson] Do you feel that President Husayn has enough respect for an Arab states' resolution to respect it?

[Hasan] I think that he is, to a very large extent in the Arab street, representative of the Arab will to fight back. And, I think that this is something he regards as terribly important. He, of course, was able to achieve a withdrawal from Iranian in the aftermath of the Iranian-Iraq war [sentence as heard]. He is on the verge of signing an

agreement with Iran. I think yes if he gives his word effectively this can be done.

[Jackson] But he...[Jackson changes thought] but here is a case where he invaded another Arab state...

[Hasan, interrupting] Yes.

[Jackson] Against the will and precedence of other Arab states, and the Saudis perceived him as a threat to Saudi Arabia and even to the Emirates. So, how did he send these threatening signals to other Arab states?

[Hasan] I think he has made it very clear, time and again, that he had no intention of taking any action south of the Kuwait border with Saudi Arabia, and this is what we find so puzzling, the tremendous build-up of the case that Iraq is a threat. Of course, now with the tremendous build-up in the south of Iraq, targets south of Iraq are clearly a part of a potential extended war zone.

[Jackson] Your brother has been to the United States and to the Arab states and now to Europe, do you think that it is too late between his work, and that Perez de Cuellar coming to Amman, Jordan, do you think it is too late to get him to honor the original agreement; that is to move into Kuwait for what he called disciplinary reasons and then to withdraw and then to negotiate the areas in dispute?

[Hasan] The Indian foreign minister, President Waldheim, many visitors have been to Baghdad in the last few days, and the impression that we get is that he is ready to negotiate. I don't think the secretary general would be visiting the area if he did not feel there was a window of opportunity there. And, I feel effectively that force should be diplomacy through other means, and this is why my brother has been at this five minutes before midnight striving to bring about the containment of what could be a devastating war. So, I do think yes we have to give peace that last chance.

[Jackson] He still has the power to stop the military build-up, because his pretext is his invasion and annexation of Kuwait and his holding foreign nationals. Do you think that he would be inclined to for example, make some bold steps to begin the withdrawal from Kuwait, to put disputed areas on the table of international arbitration, and again the release of foreign nationals? It seems that kind of massive and bold step would enforce a new level of discussion.

[Hasan] Well look, I don't want to be seen as a broker for the Iraqi case. They obviously have to make it clearly to the Security Council and through the secretary general, but my feeling is that there have been many affects of the... [Hasan changes thought] for closure of the diplomatic option. One of them is the sad and tragic story of the foreigners, the other is the question of the embassies. I think, however, if we get back to the components, to arbitration, to neutral zones and so forth, this is of course a part of the essential crisis; that is the Iraq-Kuwait crisis, and this is I think what diplomats should be considering. However, in terms of bold moves or confidence building, yes I do think that if he has some form of a guarantee of non-aggression that clearly he can take that step, correspondingly, he has to commit himself to withdrawal.

[Jackson] As the king travels throughout the region and to the U.S. and back, is there a recommended Jordanian solution, a Jordanian plan?

[Hasan] There is not a Jordanian plan, sir, there is a number of talking points which we are trying to exchange with others who share our deep concern in many countries: Algeria, Tunisia, there have been demonstrations in many Arab and Muslim countries about the innuendo of this huge foreign troop presence unprecedented in Arabian history in the holy land. And, the question is does this presage effectively a situation where half, forgive me, the requirements of the United States in oil will come from Saudi Arabia over the next five years. Is there a situation for the Gulf in a conflict-free zone which we could evolve? If so, could that mean true production, chemical weapons reduction, weapons of mass destruction reduction across the board? Could it mean a more equitable sharing of oil returns? This is what we are looking for in the intermediate.

[Jackson] This raises two questions. The impression we get is that the American troop presence and the allied troop presence is welcomed this year by invitation, and in addition to the Saudis inviting the U.S. and the allied forces in, that now Jordan and others have joined them. So we are getting mixed signals: on the one hand there is anxiety about their presence, but they are here by invitation.

[Hasan] Well this is the sovereign right of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states for whom we have the greatest concern. But at the same time, there is this popular reaction that is certainly felt here and it is felt elsewhere. And we all talk about constituent politics. In the States, it seems to be good to be acting as the international policeman. In certain quarters, in our case, it is extremely worrying to look at this international presence and wonder how long it is going to stay.

[Jackson] But it seemed that Jordan, Egypt and other countries are joining the U.S. in the diplomatic efforts, but more than that the economic efforts, and even in the military force to draw a line.

[Hasan] Well, in the economic effort, clearly, Jordan, as a small country with limited resources, cannot face this rapid escalation from sanctions to embargo without enormous hardship, and this is something that we are already beginning to feel.

[Jackson] Does Jordan support the sanctions?

[Hasan] Jordan supports [the sanctions] and is implementing [them] to the best of its ability. But I'd like to make it very clear that we are being punished, or so it is felt, for just speaking up for a situation which is not either with or against the United States—a situation

where we are trying pragmatically to say the United States should effectively de-escalate. And this is what his majesty, I think, agreed upon in principle with President Bush—that we must give diplomacy a chance. There has to be a level of escalation beyond which we should not go, otherwise the scenario would have been a war scenario from the beginning.

[Jackson] At what price is Jordan cooperating in the economic sanctions in terms of over a quarter of a million refugees on the one hand coming in, and your own trade exports can reduce on the other? Is there any compensatory measure to offset the cost that Jordan is paying to cooperate with the U.S. and the allied forces in this venture?

[Hasan] The international community is speaking more of relief to refugees today than it is speaking of Jordan's economy. And, frankly, the price we stand to pay is a total destruction of Jordan's economy. We have over half of our labor force in Kuwait and I think that the relationship with Kuwait and with Iraq in terms of trade is going to effectively be a tremendous blow to forsake in the interest of applying sanctions, and this is a situation shared by many East European countries as well.

[Jackson] Well, has the U.S. and European countries offered to offset the price you must pay for the sanctions and accepting the refugees?

[Hasan] Well, we are still discussing it, but it's a very slow process and it is very worrying for us to plan our future on this basis.

[Jackson] If Saddam Husayn is seen as such a demon in the West now, all kind of adjectives, he is crazy, he is irrational, he cannot negotiate, he has ambitions to take over the whole Gulf region. If he is all of that, why is he so popular among the common people, it seems, in the Middle East.

[Hasan] Because basically he represents that Arab will to fight back, and this is the sad truth that after 23 years of Israeli occupation and annexation of Jerusalem, after the Israeli invasion of the Lebanon, it is felt effectively that he has a country and a people who have been able to stand up.

[Jackson] I understand that your soldiers are on military alert. Is that because of a fear of Saddam Husayn on the one hand or of Israel?

[Hasan] Israel, very clearly, says we will play a low profile in this crisis, because, clearly, their premature involvement will generalize the conflict and raise tremendous anti-Zionist feelings. However, it is very clear that the Israelis are also saying at a given moment we may have to stop Saddam in his tracks. And we do not want to be an easy passage for missiles and projectiles from whatever side. But we certainly don't see an Iraqi threat at this stage, and we feel effectively that we have to protect our sovereignty against all comers.

[Jackson] At this rather critical stage with the war drums beating on the one hand, and the king traveling as he is, and Secretary General Perez de Cuellar coming here this week, out of all of this do you feel a sense of hope or a sense of fear?

[Hasan] Well, I think we are all desperately fearful about the future, the future of our children, the future of this country. We don't have weapons of mass destruction, we have democracy, and if that is a weapon, well we are speaking our minds. Sometimes we are speaking it hurtfully to others which we regret and we hope that they'll understand our long-term objectives. But, in terms of hope we cannot live without hope. At least, as I have said many times, it is better to have at least striven in the cause of peace than to have continued in this downward cycle of despair and nihilism that we have felt out of 23 years of occupation of Palestine for example.

[Jackson] I want to ask this question another way one more time. The U.S. presence here now, do you feel that it is a source of security or source of anxiety?

[Hasan] It is a source of anxiety. Potentially, of course, positioning of American or foreign troops in this part of the world is not new. What is new is the crossing of the threads. On the one side, the deterrent when Iraq attacked the defense of the sovereign territory of Arab states is a bilateral issue. On the other hand, the crossing of threads between that presence and the UN role. The possibility of moving to Article 42 of the charter and aggressing retroactively under a UN flag that bear in mind General MacArthur in the Korean war that was a UN force after all but with a large American presence in it. This is what we find so terribly worrying. And, what kind of future can violence hold other than a chain reaction of militancy?

[Jackson] The U.S. and world troop presence is now in Saudi Arabia or in other parts of the Gulf states now, but they were invited here by Saudi Arabia, by Kuwait seemingly with the support by other Arab states. What do you think can be done in the near future to discourage the build-up, and in fact move us in another direction toward de-escalation?

[Hasan] Well, as we have been saying, Reverend, from the very beginning, the contribution of an Arab and Muslim force would not have been impossible. Not to compare the size of forces that have moved in, but at least with the moral authority to interpose themselves between the combative, potentially combative forces. And, that still exist. That possibility was exercised in 1961 in Kuwait when Jordanian forces entered after the British, and there was a clear political mandate for the British to withdraw and for an Arab force to take over.

[Jackson] So, you feel if the war rhetoric and the war material do not escalate to the point of explosion that still a window for some...

[Hasan, interrupting] Indeed.

[Jackson] For some Arab Muslim force and some neutral zone between Iraq and Kuwait?

[Hasan] Well, I am not again getting into details on behalf of the Iraqis, nor have they asked me to do so, but I would just like to say that this is a formula that has worked in the past. Secondly, when we speak of neutral zones, let me remind you that every single one of the Gulf states has had and still has an outstanding territorial dispute. So, the main thing is to make sure that this doesn't happen again. I mean why cannot the Gulf become a conflict-free zone, for example? Why cannot we see reductions on all weapons of mass destrucion in the region? Why cannot we see an economic regime that brings the Middle East with all its peoples closer to the world order. This is something to look for in the intermediate. As far as an Arab presence is concerned for the solution of immediate conflict, the containment of it, we do need that period of lull and I think we can contribute to this.

[Jackson] One more raise in the same question [as heard]. One we've been trying to raise it. Do you feel that if the Arab League for example were to meet with Saddam Husayn and recommended to him that he withdraw from the annexation and be a part of some agreement to a neutral zone, maybe even to the disputed territories, that he could hear the collective voices and the moral authority of the Arab states to come up with that kind of an Arab solution?

[Hasan] This has yet to be tried. But, I think at the end of the day the overwhelming fear of the total destruction of Iraq, of its infrastructure, of its economy is a fear that clearly has to be shared by everyone concerned in this conflict. And, I think that Arab will, effectively the diplomatic will, will certainly find a response in Baghdad. The problem is that the Iraqis are saying we want to talk and very few people are listening.

[Jackson] This conversation has been most informative and helpful, and your optimism is a source of hope for us all. Thank you very much. Good evening.

[Hasan] Thank you very much.

Philippine Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit

JN3108115990 Amman Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Philippine's Foreign Minister Raul Manglapus arrived in Amman today on a short visit which will include a meeting with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent. He will also meet high-ranking officials for talks on the Gulf crisis and conditions of Philippine nationals who crossed into Jordan from Kuwait and Iraq.

Meets With Prince Hasan

JN0109122190 Amman Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, today received a message from Philippine President Corazon Aquino addressed to his majesty the king. The message thanked the Jordanian Government for its assistence to Philippine nationals who crossed into Jordan from Iraq and Kuwait.

Philippine Foreign Minister Raul Manglapus, who arrived in Amman early today, delivered a message to the crown prince during a meeting at the Royal Court today. Discussion at the meeting focused on the numbers of Filipinos who arrived in Jordan and Jordan's assistance to them. The Philippine foreign minister also commended Jordan's role to contain the Gulf crisis and find a peaceful solution. He said his country will make every effort to fly home all its nationals.

The crown prince said during the meeting that any conflict in the region threatens the international community with tragedies and calls for intensive efforts to resolve the conflict and to avoid the use of military power.

The Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim attended the meeting.

Departs 31 Aug

JN0109123290 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Philippine Foreign Minister Raul Manglapus left Amman this afternoon following a short visit during which he met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, and handed him a letter from Mrs. Corazon Aquino, president of the Republic of the Philippines, addressed to His Majesty King Husayn.

In her letter, the Philippine president expressed thanks and appreciation for the noble Jordanian stand and Jordan's care about the Philippine nationals who came from Iraq and Kuwait on their way home.

Reportage on King Husayn's Visit to Europe

WA3108120290

For reportage on the European tour of King Husayn to exchange ideas on ways to resolve the Gulf crisis, please see the Spain, United Kingdom, FRG, France, and Italy sections of the 31 August West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

King Returns From Arab Maghreb, European Tour

JN0409180090 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1746 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn returned home a short while ago following a tour of the Arab Maghreb countries and five European countries as part of his majesty's efforts to find a political solution to the Gulf crisis.

His majesty was welcomed by His Highness Prince Muhammad, his majesty the king's personal representative; His Highness Crown Prince Hasan; His Highness Prince Faysal Bin-al-Husayn; and His Highness Prince 'Ali Bin-al-Husayn. Also welcoming his majesty were the heads of the Senate and House of Representatives, the deputy prime minister and interior minister, the chief chamberlain, the general chief of staff, senior military and civil officials, and the ambassadors of the states visited by his majesty.

UK's Hurd Arrives, Calls For Iraqi Withdrawal

JN0509092890 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 5 Sep 90

[Text] British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd arrived in Amman this morning on a one-day visit to Jordan, during which he will meet with His Majesty King Husayn and senior officials as part of his tour of the region.

In a brief press statement on arrival at the airport, Mr. Hurd said his talks will focus on the Gulf crisis, in addition to the major problem facing Jordan as a result of the influx of thousands of people from Iraq and Kuwait. He stressed that this is a humanitarian problem that needs to be resolved through an international effort. He indicated that resolving the Gulf crisis requires the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of those Iraqi forces in Kuwait, stressing that his country's interest in resolving the Gulf crisis does not mean forgetting the Palestine question which, he stressed, should be resolved.

Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; the British ambassador in Amman; and senior Foreign Ministry officials received him at the airport.

Deputy Shubaylat Praises Outcome of Visit to Tehran

JN0109075190 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 31 Aug 90 pp 1, 15

[Excerpt] Amman—Engineer Layth Shubaylat, member of the House of Representatives, has stressed that the Jordanian and Iranian peoples hold identical views on the Gulf crisis and the presence of foreign forces in the Arabian Peninsula.

In a telephone conversation with AL-RA'Y following his return, along with the popular delegation, from Iran last night, Shubaylat said: Our visit was successful and fruitful. He added that the Iranian people are aware of the seriousness of the foreign forces' presence, which not only targets Iraq but the entire Islamic nation.

He said that the delegation met with several Iranian officials including Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Majlis Speaker Karrubi, and members of the Council of Guardians of the Constitution and the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Islamic Consultative Assembly. He added that talks were frank and cordial and views were identical on most issues in the region.

He explained that the time is right for the restoration of diplomatic relations between Jordan and Iran and called on the Jordanian Government to rapidly take the necessary steps in this regard.

On Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's recent initiative in which he accepted the Algiers Agreement and exchanged prisoners of war, Shubaylat said that Iran happily welcomed the initiative and views future bilateral relations on the basis of good neighborly relations and general normalization of relations in all fields. He also explained that they are awaiting the arrival of Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz to finalize the issues between them.

He stressed the Iranian people's historical hostility toward the United States and Israel, which they regard as one, and referred to the daily slogans raised after each prayer, condemning the United States and Israel. He added that there is a general mobilization of the Iranian people against the United States and Israel, the nation's first enemy.

He added that the Iranian people support the Iraqi people, sympathize with them, harbor no hatred toward them, and call on the Islamic peoples to side with them to deter the U.S. aggression which is threatening the nation. [passage omitted]

Al-Hirawi Chairs Cabinet; Statement Issued

NC0509151090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Sep 90

[Statement by Information Minister Edmund Rizq following a cabinet meeting chaired by President Ilyas al-Hirawi in Beirut on 5 September—recorded]

[Text] The cabinet held a meeting under the chairmanship of President Ilyas al-Hirawi and in the presence of Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss and the ministers. The cabinet reviewed the various aspects of the internal situation and regional and international developments. His excellency the president briefed the cabinet on the results of the Lebanese-Syrian summit which was held in Damascus last week end and in which the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies and prime minister participated. The cabinet expressed satisfaction with the understanding and coordination on all levels related to the common interests of both countries which prevailed during the summit.

His excllency Dr. al-Huss briefed the cabinet on the proceedings of the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Cairo and the results of his meeting with the foreign ministers of the Arab Higher Tripartite Committee. He stressed that the committee will continue its mission to help Lebanon, particularly regarding the establishment of an international and Arab fund, and that it will support Lebanon in its demand that it be included in the list of states benefitting from the aid which will be extended to the states harmed by the Gulf events.

Regarding the stand on the Arab issues, the cabinet stressed its support for the group of the fraternal states which adopted the summit's resolution and which was represented at the Arab foreign ministers meeting. The cabinet reiterated its hope that the Arab issues will be dealt with at the Arab League to reach positive, logical, and just solutions.

The cabinet studied its agenda and adopted the appropriate decisions. It noted that the Tripoli oil refinery is operating again on experimental basis. It decided to allocate the funds necessary to import crude oil regularly. It also decided to accept a grant of 20,000 tons of fuel from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and to thank the fraternal state for its kind gesture. The cabinet agreed to grant a treasury loan to the municipal councils to pay the salaries and wages which had fallen due by the end of June. The cabinet also decided to refer the draft amendment of the administrative judiciary law the way it was formulated by the Labor Ministry to the Chamber of Deputies.

The cabinet discussed in depth the living conditions, high cost of living, and the inflation resulting from the grave drop in the price of the Lebanese pound. The cabinet reiterated that tackling the security and political situations remains the basis for confidence in the future and a decisive factor in consolidating stability and consequently in returning to normal life. It approved a number of measures to confront the current situation. The cabinet called for a general national stand to confront the dangers threatening Lebanon as a result of the persistence in disintegrating the institutions, confiscating the state's revenues, and paralyzing its utilities and capacities by the various forces of the fait accompli.

Measures Adopted to Prevent Food Smuggling to Iraq

NC0109142390 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] According to some press reports, the Iraqi Embassy, which is located in Beirut's eastern area, has concluded deals with a number of businessmen to smuggle foodstuffs and other items to Iraq. The same reports said that all the Lebanese coasts and ports have been placed under strict control and surveillance to prevent any smuggling operation to Iraq.

Birri Urges Government To Enter Eastern Areas

NC3108180190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Excerpts] A general strike was staged in Beirut and other Lebanese areas on the occasion of the 12th anniversary of the disappearance of Imam Musa al-Sadr and his two companions, Shaykh Muhammad Ya'qub and journalist 'Abbas Badr-al-Din. Shops, private institutions, and banks closed in response to the call made by Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri. A rally was held on this occasion by the Amal Movement at the Science College in Bi'r Hasan. [passage omitted]

In his speech at the conclusion of the rally, Minister Birri called on the government to resolve the situation in the eastern area and called on the Army to enter this area by force with Syrian assistance. He appealed to Syrian President al-Asad, in the name of the Lebanese people, to rescue all Lebanon, saying: Make your entry to restore a homeland; make it the last war and the beginning of peace.

The Amal Movement leader affirmed the Movement's readiness to offer whatever the state wishes, including the weapons and equipment in its possession, and to hand the south over to it within two hours if it so requests.

Minister Birri said that the constitutional reforms do not constitute the second republic which we called for. They constitute an accord among the sects, which is very important because they are the common denominator for Lebanon's survival, unity, and Arabism.

Minister Birri said that the economic situation has become intolerable. He suggested that the state adopt economic and security measures, including the rebuilding of the Army which is the most important economic project. He also affirmed the Movement's readiness to be the first of the militias to hand over ports to the state. [passage omitted]

Military Action Against 'Awn Areas Prepared

NC0409085790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Government sources have indicated that a final decision has been made to impose state authority in the northern and southern al-Matn regions by peaceful means, if General 'Awn agrees to endorse the al-Ta'if accord, or by force if he persists in his intransigence and rebellion. The sources expect the cabinet, during its next session, to announce some political principles which would ensure legitimacy's support for the anticipated measures by the Lebanese army under the command of General Emile Lahhud.

The sources explained that the return of Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi to Lebanon will not be for the purpose of resuming the negotiations with General 'Awn, but within the framework of the efforts to establish the international fund for assisting Lebanon.

The sources affirmed that the army command is completing the military preparations to implement the government's decision if military action becomes necessary. The same sources expressed the hope that the final preparations will be completed within 10 days. They noted that forces from all the Army brigades will first implement a plan to advance peacefully from several points in the mountain, Beirut, and the Southern Suburb. If these forces are attacked, the next step in this plan will be a military confrontation.

AP reported that the Lebanese Army, which is loyal to President Ilyas al-Hirawi, and the Syrian Army have reinforced their positions along the al-Matn front facing Gen. 'Awn's forces. The news agency added that 6,000 Lebanese troops have taken up positions in areas facing General 'Awn's positions. These reinforcements indicate that a military action to remove General 'Awn from the Presidential Palace in B'abda is imminent, the agency concluded.

Arab Envoy Ibrahimi Telephones Al-Hirawi

NC0109094290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] Arab Envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi telephoned President Ilyas al-Hirawi today. Ibrahimi emphasized the interest of the Arab states, particularly the Arab tripartite committee's member states, in the situation in Lebanon. He pointed out that these states seek to include Lebanon in the list of the states harmed by the events in the Gulf.

Al-Huss Returns From Cairo 1 Sep

NC0109142690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss returned to Beirut this afternoon after participating in the Arab foreign ministers' conference that was held in Cairo yesterday to discuss Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Report Details Gulf Crisis Effect on Economy

NC0309125090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] The Chamber of Commerce and Industry has published a report about the economic deterioration in Lebanon and the effects of the Gulf crisis. The report noted deterioration in the agricultural, industrial, and basic services sectors. The report expected the deterioration to continue as the Gulf crisis continues.

The report indicated that the remittances that Lebanese used to send from Kuwait and Iraq and which totaled about $150 million monthly have completely stopped now. The return of about 75 percent of Lebanese nationals who worked in the Gulf might increase the unemployment rate in Lebanon.

The report also noted that the Bank of Lebanon's foreign currency reserves have decreased to less than $500 million, that the state's financial deficit is currently more than $100 million, and that the internal public debt is more than $1.6 billion.

Thus the report has painted a gloomy picture of Lebanon's economic situation.

Amal, Hizballah Clash in Ba'labakk Neighborhoods

Hizballah Members Assassinated

NC3108152890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] An Amal official source has reported that residential neighborhoods and Amal offices in Ba'labakk have come under violent and intensive artillery shelling from Hizballah artillery emplacements and the Shaykh 'Abdallah barracks which is controlled by the Iranian guards since 1500 today. The source added that clashes are taking place in all areas of the city.

AFP cites Hizballah as saying that five of its members, including an official, Shaykh 'Abbas Hashimi [name as heard], were assassinated in their houses by Amal members.

Meanwhile Amal said its military official 'Ali Ja'far had been killed.

Al-Husayni Appeals To End Strife

NC3108164890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] [Words indistinct] prevent a deterioration in the situation. He also appealed to the Syrian Arab forces to take all necessary measures. Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni today followed up on the painful developments in Ba'labakk and held numerous contacts to prevent a deterioration of the situation in the city, particularly during this difficult time for the country. He made the following appeal:

I appeal to all families and clans in the Ba'labakk-al-Hirmil area to intervene immediately to prevent a deterioration of the situation. I also appeal to the officials in the Syrian Arab forces to take all appropriate measures to prevent the exacerbation of the strife at a time when the country is in need of the efforts of its sincere sons. I am confident that national awareness will serve to deter anyone who wants to harm this area and all Lebanon.

Clashes Continue; 20 Killed

NC0109070490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] Tension is high in the city of Ba'labakk in the aftermath of the violent clashes between Amal Movement and Hizballah yesterday. According to REUTER, 20 people were killed and 50 others wounded in these clashes. The dead include Amal official Abu-Ja'far, nicknamed Abu-Rabi' and Hizballah members Shaykh 'Abbas al-Hindi and 'Isam al-Kayyal.

According to reports from al-Biqa', Syrian forces are deploying patrols in the city.

Hizballah Reportedly in Control

NC0109075190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] Guarded calm prevails in the city of Ba'labakk and its surroundings after approximately four hours of violent clashes yesterday afternoon. Hizballah fighters expelled the remaining aggressors of Birri and Hubayqah gangs who had gathered at some cells in the Christian quarter of Ba'labakk, particularly the Amal movement office in the region and the nearby Jabaq center.

Quiet prevailed in most of the city's areas and streets after dark when Hizballah strugglers controlled the situation fully after preventing the expansion of the area of the sedition by expelling the aggressors from this peaceful and densely populated city.

REUTER reports that more than 10 Amal members, including military official Abu-Rabi' Ja'far, were killed and that more than 50 persons were injured during the battles.

AFP reports that yesterday's battles permitted Hizballah to expel Amal from its main headquarters, which was completely destroyed, and from all its centers in the city.

Lahhud Troops Deploy for Attack on 'Awn

NC3108190290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] REUTER has reported that approximately 700 Lebanese troops under the command of General Emile Lahhud have deployed on the lines between al-Shuwayfat and Suq al-Gharb as a prelude to launching a military operation against General 'Awn.

Citing eyewitnesses, the agency says that Progressive Socialist Party gunmen have withdrawn from their positions to allow the deployment of the Lebanese troops in the area. It added that Syrian tanks and trucks carrying arms and ammunition were seen moving toward al-Shuwayfat.

REUTER quotes a source, whom it describes as an official in the Lebanese Government, to the effect that 'Awn's rebellion will be ended before the end of next month.

Lebanese Forces 1 Sep Infighting Cited

NC0309130390 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1100 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] According to security reports from Jubayl, a number of the Lebanese Forces militiamen have been wounded and four helicopters damged in the newly built airport in Ram township, which is close to Mishmish. The injuries and damage were caused by military operation among the disputing factions within the militias.

According to details, a dispute ensued last Saturday among members of the Lebanese Forces militia guarding the airport. The dispute developed into a shootout and ramparts were erected. A patrol of the so-called military police was sent to the scene of the clash. On the way, the patrol was ambushed, a number of its members were wounded, and three jeeps were burned.

On the following day, there was an explosion at the airport, damaging four helicopters.

Situation Escalating in Eastern Area

NC0209053290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Military escalation on the confrontation lines in the eastern area is moving toward a large-scale explosion. Ja'ja' and 'Awn are concentrating their forces there and clashes take place every now and then on these lines. This followed the mediation committee's failure to restore normal conditions.

Tension mounted yesterday. Several clashes involving automatic weapons and rockets took place on the newly established confrontation lines in the areas of al-Barjawi, the Museum, and Hotel Dieu.

Al-Zu'bi Briefs Cabinet on Arab League Meeting

JN0409173090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers held a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi at 1100 today. During the meeting, the council was briefed on the Services Committee's activities in the field of housing projects for university professors and in securing the requirements of universities, institutes, and schools for this academic year. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' explained the results of the Arab League meeting. He also briefed the council on current Arab and international contacts to deal with the serious situation resulting from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Economy Minister Speaks at Damascus Fair

JN0109192990 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1642 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Speech by Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, on opening the 37th Damascus International Fair on behalf of President Hafiz al-Asad on 28 August—recorded]

[Text] Esteemed guests, noble gathering: It is a great honor for me to be here to greet and welcome you on behalf of the president of the republic struggler leader Hafiz al-Asad. [applause] It is also a pleasure and an honor that his excellency the president has kindly patronized this gathering and authorized me to represent him today in opening the 37th Damascus International Fair. I would like to convey the president's warmest greetings and best wishes to you. I would also like to express the president's strong desire to strengthen the ties of friendship and fraternity and to develop relations with your fraternal and friendly countries.

Gentlemen, our fair has always been a means for cultural interaction with the world nations participating in it. Its various pavilions display goods reflecting technological and economic progress. Moreover, our continuous meetings with our brothers and friends during the fair help improve trade, scientific, and technological relations. Above all, this cultural event emphasizes the strong belief in the need for international cooperation for the sake of man's happiness on our planet.

The Damascus International Fair is also an extension of that historic record which has defined Damascus as the gateway of history, the center of civilizations, and the commercial link between East and West.

Our fair, gentlemen, is also an occasion which provides a quick picture of the accomplishments of our masses and the progress they have made so far. It is also an occasion to shed more light on our economic issues and policies.

Gentlemen, President Hafiz al-Asad has affirmed over the past 20 years Syria's pan-Arab struggle stands, which stem from our faith in the greatness of our nation and its right, and the justice of our cause, as well as our endeavor to achieve Arab unity and strengthen militant Arab solidarity. The president has also affirmed that the Palestine question is the central issue of our nation and that our sole enemy is the Zionist enemy, which occupies the land, usurps the rights, and brings more emigrants into our Arab land. Our aim is to liberate the land and achieve just peace, which guarantees for the Palestinian Arab people their right to establish their state on their national soil. The president has also affirmed Syria's respect for Arab and international pacts, agreements, and legitimacy and its endeavor to help its brothers in their efforts to assert this legitimacy—hence Syria's support, assistance, and sacrifices for the sake of backing the fraternal Lebanese people and their legitimate government to establish its full authority over Lebanese territory in order to guarantee fraternal Lebanon's unity, Arabism, and safety.

The president has also affirmed from the first moments of Iraq's invasion of the State of Kuwait through its call for an Arab summit the necessity to contain the crisis and to implement the Arab solution. The president reaffirmed that in his historic appeal at the Arab summit when he said: The situation is serious, indeed very serious. It is more serious than what many people imagine. We want to avert the danger. We are all in danger, headed by fraternal Iraq. When we say that Iraq is in the forefront, we cannot separate ourselves from any harm to Iraq. When we see that Iraq is facing a great danger, we must strive to avert it.

In his call, his excellency the president said: I do not believe that there is anybody who likes to bring foreigners into our homeland even if they are friends. The event brought in the foreigners. The foreigners did not bring about the event. The foreigners who came to the region did not cause the event to come about. No, the event is what brought them to the region. If we seek to see these foreigners leave as soon as possible, let us find a solution to this event as soon as possible. Besides, his excellency the president affirmed that we must save ourselves as expeditiously and early as possible. The path is clear. Kuwait must be restored the way it was—with its lands, government, and everything that was in it. This must take place immediately. We must struggle and agree among ourselves to secure the departure of foreign troops. [applause]

This concerns the Arab sphere. As regards the domestic front, our country has affirmed the need to make economic and social development a national cause that concerns all citizens, not only because it is linked to our present generation but also because it has a deeper connection to the lives of future generations, to our future, to the future of the homeland, and also to its ability to continue the liberation and unionist struggle. Hence, his excellency the president has, since the early seventies, underscored economic pluralism as a prelude to mobilizing all capabilities, as a method for exercising democracy in choice and application, and also as a

means for self-expression, enrichment, and creativity. The experiences of two decades which are rich in accomplishments and gains have shown the success of pluralism and the farsightedness as well as the soundness of its engineer. The public sector is the leading and pioneering sector. Besides, it makes up 45 percent of the gross national product. It has full control over the sector of extractive industries, electricity, and water. Also, this sector covers approximately 87 percent of the services sector, 63 percent of the intermediate industries sector, 50 percent of the building and construction sector, 41 percent of the financial and leaseholds sector, 38 percent of the trade sector, 28 percent of the transportation and storage sector, and 1.4 percent of the agricultural sector.

As for the private and mixed sector, this contributes 55 percent to the gross national product and covers 98.6 percent of the agricultural sector, 72 percent of the transportation sector, 62 percent of the trade sector, 59 percent of the financial and leaseholds sector, 50 percent of the building and construction sector, 37 percent of the intermediate industries sector, 16 percent of the services sector. The mixed sector is mainly involved in the tourist sector with clear beginnings in the agricultural sector.

The decisions made have contributed to the consecration of economic pluralism and also to opening up further horizons before it. The value of the contribution of the private and mixed sector to the gross national product has increased from 42.6 billion pounds in 1985 to 111 billion pounds in 1989. The total of the fixed capital in this sector increased from 6.519 billion to 15.229 billion over the same period. Its contribution to the commodity export operations increased from 6.373 billion in 1987 to 16.189 billion in 1989. We still believe that the latent capabilities of this sector are numerous. We are working and will continue to work to open up further horizons and find further incentives for accomodating the savings and capabilities of this sector inside and outside.

As for political pluralism, gentlemen, it has contributed toward consecrating national unity and developmental participation in terms of planning, implementation, and follow-up. The implementation of the local administration law has come about to support the democratic march in our country, as our people's masses are participating in electing their representatives to governorate, city, and municipal councils, which total 233 councils comprising 4,788 members. Their budgets have developed and now exceed 13 billion Syrian pounds in 1990.

The experiment of the local administration has succeeded in centralizing responsibility in the hands of the productive classes and in holding the administrative units on all levels responsible for the citizens' services and affairs. It also underlined the powers that will help the administrative units to carry out their tasks through the institutions stemming from these units. Thus, local communities will manage their own affairs and develop their potentials in a democratic way away from centralism.

Economic and political pluralism has bolstered the possibilities of implementing the slogan of self-reliance and released the potentials of all our people with all its sectors—workers, peasants, craftsmen, and industrialists—to exploit the abundant resources. This multifaceted prosperity that has been growing in Syria since the Corrective Movement in 1970 has turned our country into a workshop. The economic policies in our country have drawn up the courses of action to develop production. Local production in 1989 increased by 10.5 percent over what it was in 1988; the fixed capital increased from 26 billion pounds in 1988 to 33 billion in 1989. These figures do not include the investments accomplished in the sector of oil service contracts.

The structures of investments in the fixed assets developed in a remarkable way. The priorities given to the irrigation, agriculture, oil, and industry sectors during that period reflected the efforts to expedite completion of development projects.

In the agriculture sector, great attention was directed toward developing this sector. The efforts focus on increasing the irrigated area, building dams, and achieving a horizontal and perpendicular expansion. The irrigated areas increased in the 1990-91 season by approximately 34,000 hectares, including 13,000 hectares that were reclaimed in the Ballik basin, al-Yarmuk, the coast, Maskanah, Mansha't al-Asad, and the 16 October Dam. This is in addition to the areas financed by the agricultural bank. As a coordinated scientific endeavor, the agricultural plan focused on exploiting all agricultural areas, improving water management, selecting crop rotations, providing production requirements, and securing the requirements of animal wealth. The plan also supported the policies aimed at importing vehicles and equipment and the requirements of agricultural products, the policies of marketing products and granting privileges to the exportation sector to render successful efforts made to strengthen this sector.

In the oil field, the Syrian Oil Company and the service companies continued the work of surveillance and exploration in the various parts of the country. This resulted in achieving important discoveries in terms of new gas and oil fields. Positive signs were also achieved in other areas, including areas in which drilling is being carried out for the first time. These signs will expedite the discovery of new oil and gas fields in areas that were not touched previously.

Thus, the Syrian Oil Company has achieved oil and gas discoveries in (?Blaysan), al-Rasif, Kamal al-Husayn, and al-Turkumaniyah; and gas has been obtained in the Palmyra chain. New technology has been used for the first time in many areas. This is in addition to the new discoveries in [word indistinct) al-Sham—in Sha'ban, Jarjur, and Malik oil fields. Other achievements were attained in the contracts signed with the Elf [France] and Total companies. Other companies began to drill the first wells in their contracts.

Gentlemen: The country achieved during the past stage great success in developing the oil and gas wells. With regard to gas, projects were implemented to use gas to generate electrical power. New projects for gas were also implemented to meet all the country's needs for electrical power. This is in addition to the possibility of exporting gas in the future. The use of gas will allow the exportation of quantities of fuel now used to generate electrical power.

With regard to electricity, the annual rate of consumption in the country has increased by more than 10 percent. This increase was accompanied by parallel development in generating electrical power. A balance was achieved and the shortage that appeared in the past years was overcome despite the scarcity of water resources.

Natural gas sources in the al-Suwyadiyah fields have been exploited through the establishment of a gas generating station with a total capacity of 150 megawatt. The al-Tayyim fields have been exploited through the establishment of a gas generating station with a total capacity of over 90 megawatt. Two steam generating complexes were established in the third and fourth quarters of 1989 with a capacity of 170 megawatt each. In the field of power transfer, the dual al-Darrah line with a voltage of 230 kilovolt has been completed between the generating stations in Banyas and Hamah in order to secure a stable power flow from the generating stations to consumption areas, especially in the southern areas. A contract has been concluded to establish generating stations with a tension of 400/230 kilovolt to improve the investment climate in the southern area and as preparation for future linkage with the Arab East countries. Many medium- and low-tension power networks have been expanded to meet the demands of industrial and agricultural projects and to provide power to subscribers, who totalled 2.16 million up to the first half of 1990. Thus, over 96 percent of the country's citizens now benefit from power supplies.

In the field of intermediate industries: The gross national product in this sector has increased from 10.821 billion pounds in 1988 to 15.260 billion pounds in 1989. Investments in this sector have also increased. The industrial licenses granted in 1989 for the private sector only have totalled about 10 billion Syrian pounds. These licenses have been given to 6,186 projects.

In the field of transportation and communications: An integrated highway network that covers the whole country has been finished. This network is being improved and promoted through the establishment of new roads that help shorten distances and encourage development in the rural areas in accordance with a long-term plan. Postal and telephone services are being promoted, expansion is being carried out, and the infrastructures for future expansion are being prepared within the limits of available resources. Urban transportation companies have begun to receive new buses, for a total of 800 buses. The Tartus-Latakia railway has been completed and placed under partial investment. This brings the length of railway networks up to 2,358 km, apart from those existing at the stations. The establishment of the Damascus-Dar'a and Dayr al- Zawr-Abu Bukamal railways has begun to link Syria with neighboring Arab countries. The Latakia and Tartus ports' capacity has been increased to meet the increasing demands of export, import, and transit movement through the country.

In the field of tourism: A number of new hotels have been established, such as al-Shahba', al-Furat, Iblah, Afamia, Safita, and Busra al-Sham, and others in Aleppo, Tartus, and Ma'lulah. Hotel accommodation capacity has increased by over 6,100 beds of international and premium class, in addition to first class hotels. The number of Arab and foreign visitors to the country has risen from 988,000 in 1985 to 1.363 million in 1989. This led to an increase in the number of employees in this sector as well as other related services. Our policy in the field of tourism is to activate the private and mixed sectors to help promote this sector. Now we have a wide network of hotels that fully serves tourism.

In the field of culture: When we talk about development, we must talk about culture and its distinctive role in the intellectual and educational makeup of human beings. Our country has realized the importance of the role of this sector, with its cultural and developmental aspects. This realization has led to practical measures whose credibility has been derived from President Hafiz al-Asad's extreme care about culture. He provided culture with all its requirements so that Syria would be able to continue its historic role as a well-known center of culture. From this premise, we gave the world decade of culture due attention and rehabilitated professional cadres and talented persons at popular cultural centers. We worked to spread cultural development awareness through all our magazines and publications—both books originally in Arabic and those translated from other languages—and through our establishment of various artistic specializations. As for the cultural process on which our cultural awakening has been based, we have established the pillars of a film, theatrical, artistic, and archaeological awakening with Arab and international dimensions. This awakening has domestic and Arab effects in the formulation of the collective consciousness of the masses to contribute toward the modulation of national, pan-Arab, and world cultural development through our cultural extension throughout the Arab homeland and the world. We have taken part in many seminars and Arab and international cultural activities. We have held seminars on archaeology attended by Arab and foreign specialists in most of the Syrian provinces in which ancient civilizations have been discovered, such as the Mari, Ugarit, and Iblah civilizations. We have held archaeological fairs in most areas of the world—from Japan to Europe and America. We hold film and theater festivals and the Busra International Festival for Arab arts, which now has an international reputation.

As regards the educational field, we have over the past 10 years built 3,766 schools to accommodate 1,163,000

students. During the same period of time, the number of educational staff increased by more than 65,000 teachers. Likewise, expenditure on pre-university education increased from 2.619 billion pounds in 1981 to 8.431 billion pounds in 1990. Furthermore, the percentage of this expenditure in the state budget increased from 8.6 percent to 13.7 percent over the same time period.

As for higher education, the number of male and female students pursuing higher education increased by more than the normal increase. In 1990, the number of those students reached 173,690 students. The number of physicians also increased from 6,163 in 1985 to 9,814 in 1989. Besides, the number of dentists also increased from 1975 to 6,362 over the same period. Thus, the ratio of the population per physician decreased from 1,666 to 1,194. As for the ratio of the population per dentist, it decreased from 5,198 to 3,486. Figures show a qualitative improvement in the health situation embodied by a decrease in the death rate from 8.2 per 1,000 to 7 per 1,000. In addition, life expectancy has risen from 63.5 to 66 years.

The Ministry of Higher Education is completing the construction of intermediate institutes and accompanying dormitories, the faculties of dentistry, pharmacology, fine arts, and education at Damascus University. It is also completing the construction of the second-phase buildings at Tishrin University. It is also completing the construction of residence units, office buildings, the print shop, and computer building at Aleppo University. It is also completing the construction of the faculties of veterinary medicine, sciences, civil engineering, and architectural engineering, and dentistry at the al-Ba'th University.

Our universities have entered a new phase in the granting of masters and doctorate degrees. The number of postgraduate studies this year exceeded 5,000 students.

Regarding the environment, the state created a Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs to coordinate with other ministries in order to encourage, develop, and bolster environment bodies in terms of the sectorial policies and activities in an attempt to attain a sound and viable development and also to manage our environment resources properly in a manner that would allow us to honor our national, Arab, and international obligations.

As for Arab relations with fraternal Arab states, as you are well aware, gentlemen, our country firmly and wholeheartedly believes in Arab unity as a springboard and destiny. Our president says: Unity is the most sacred of all holy things. The only condition we have for unity is that it be established. It is a return to the natural state of our Arab nation, a voluntary act, a spontaneous aspiration, a yearning for its content, replete with strength, well-being, and solidarity. Our country is making strides toward the enhancement and development of its ties with its fraternal Arab countries. It is working to coordinate with them on the bilateral and multilateral levels with a view to attaining the phase of economic integration and Arab economic unity, either through concluding bilateral economic agreements or through the implementation of various treaties and agreements concluded within the framework of the Arab League, its institutions, and its organizations and in accordance with the provisions of the Arab Common Market and the agreement on Arab economic unity in a manner that would enhance the unity of Arab ranks in the face of the successive international developments, the world changes, and the crises created to dissipate the Arab homeland's material and human resources.

The various meetings between his excellency president struggler Hafiz al-Asad and his brother Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak [applause] culminate these blessed efforts and reflect the deep historical and fateful relations among the Arab countries in terms of land, people, resources, and policies. These meetings resulted in the signing of a number of agreements between the two sisterly countries, including an agreement to set up a joint higher committee, an equal commercial, developmental agreement, and an agreement that covers various fields of commercial, economic, technical and cultural cooperation between the two sisterly countries.

The meetings of the Syrian-Jordanian Joint Higher Committee also continued in order to follow up on and develop the march of economic and technical cooperation between Syria and Jordan to serve joint interests.

The meetings of the Syrian-Algerian Joint Committee also gave a new thrust to fraternal relations between the two countries. Talks also took place with the State of Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and the Sultanate of Oman to sign bilateral agreements and protocols with a view to increase and vary the size of trade exchange between us.

In the field of comprehensive Arab cooperation and joint Arab action, Syria continues its efforts with its Arab brothers to bolster the march of Arab organizations and activities and develop their work. Syria heads those Arab countries which adhere to implementing and applying the decisions of these organizations.

In the field of international trade relations, although the international economic and political changes have had a positive aspect of eliminating the causes of the cold war and removing the reasons for fear, worry, and confusion which accompanied international life in the past period, the other aspect of these changes is the constant dismissal of the developing countries' burdens of debt, decrease in production averages, problems of poverty and backwardness, population growth, and environmental affairs, as well as these countries' aspirations to set up a new economic world order that would provide them with the capability to bridge the economic and technical gap with the developed world.

Our country continues to work on developing its trade exchanges and technical and development cooperation

with all countries, whether industrial or developing, in addition to the developed relations with the friendly Soviet Union, the East European countries, as well as economic groupings and international organizations, which serve to meet common interests.

In the field of foreign trade, the government has continued its efforts to provide for the needs for agricultural production by continuing to allow the importation of all agricultural machines, vehicles, equipment, tools, and seeds, which also includes tractors, mechanical hoes, harvesters, motor threshers, engines, tires, ploughing machines, fodder, pesticides, and other requirements for agricultural production. All private sector importers are allowed import these are given credit, irrespective of the country of origin, and without having to pay any deposit.

The government has also continued to implement its policy of encouraging and supporting industry and eliminating all hindrances to industrial work. It issued numerous resolutions and instructions which allow owners of industrial and artisanal installations to import the necessary raw materials based on the Ministry of Industry's estimates.

The government has also allowed Syrian expatriates or people of similar status who set up industrial plants outside the country to transfer their industries into Syria when they wish to return to the country with the intent to reside here permamently in accordance with specified conditions and laws regarding this issue.

As regards the field of export, the two committees for export and control, in which representatives from the sectors of skilled labor, industry, and trade also participate, took decisions aiming to encourage, develop, and advance the export processes.

Directions were issued to implement exportation measures and remove all obstacles to the export process, especially the export of fruits and vegetables.

Numerous Syrian products and materials have also been added to the lists of those materials which exporters are permitted to export. They can now keep 75 percent of the net export profit to import industrial and agricultural requirements and other essential materials.

Many substances have also been added onto the list of materials allowed to be imported from the hard currency profits resulting from exportation.

As regards the exchange rate for hard currency profit, the control committee made decisions which specify granting exporters the right to exchange 25 percent of the hard currency profit—kept by the Syrian middleman—at the incentive rate instead of the official rate.

It also allowed exporters of agricultural produce to import agricultural pickup trucks and pay the money out of the hard currency profit resulting from exporting the produce.

As for the brother expatriates, they have been permitted to set up agricultural and industrial installations in accordance with Legislative Decree No. 348 to import the needs of these projects—be they vehicles, equipment, or raw material—and also to import cars or trucks necessary for their activity.

Also, the president of the Republic issued Decree No. 19, which provides for allowing Syrian Arab expatriates and those enjoying the same status to bring in and import raw material, vehicles and equipment deemed necessary for agriculture and industry, as well as to import buses, microbuses, or trucks, for purposes of investment, without a limit on the number of these vehicles. The law also allows any expatriate, after the expiration of his residence permit abroad after a period of no less than 10 years, to bring in a tourist car.

Foreign trade figures confirm the reduction of commodity import figures, from 27.915 billion in 1987 to 23.544 billion in 1989, and the increase of commodity export figures, even without considering crude oil, from 10.145 billion [Syrian] pounds in 1987 to 24.680 billion pounds in 1989. This led to a turnaround in the trade deficit from 17.960 billion in 1987 to a surplus which reached 1.056 billion in 1989, without considering crude oil. This surplus also amounted to 8.998 billion in the first half of 1990.

In order to guarantee the continuation of this big endeavor which was achieved by the export committee, we have to work toward achieving more balance in our foreign economic relations, in terms of striking a balance between exportation and importation on the basis of international blocs.

In the domestic trade, work is continuing to support consumption cooperation, expand the contribution and regulation of the marketing processes, increase the efficiency of supply control, set specifications and prices, expand the distribution services, and work to increase the storage capacity and set up silos and mills.

Gentlemen: Although we have made large strides on the road of development as you have seen, we have determined to pursue this road and to tackle the problems that hinder the accomplishment of our goals. For development is the cause of the masses and its road is through endeavors and sacrifices and constant struggle. We take pride in the fact that we are working in a stable, secure atmosphere with confidence in the future, thanks to the wise leadership of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad. [applause]

We all enormously value the efforts of the leader in developing our Armed Forces, which has secured for us security and steadfastness; his efforts in consolidating the foundations of popular democracy and economic and political pluralism, which emphasize the sovereignty of the law and the principles of freedom, equality, and dignity; and his efforts in leading the march of the unionist development struggle for goodness and sacrifices.

Gentlemen: Our fair is an important opportunity to deepen our cooperation with our brother Arabs, to develop our

relations with friendly countries, and to open new fields for cooperation with these countries and to benefit from their technological progress. We extend our hand to cooperate with the brothers and friends in the interest of our peoples and the well-being of our citizens.

Brothers: I want to express my thanks and gratitude to Mr. Nazim al-Hafiz, director general of the fair, and to my brothers, all those working in it. I would like also to thank all the officials responsible for the various sections of the fair for their efforts.

Brothers: Thanks and praise, love and loyalty, and appreciation and respect for the patron of this celebration, struggler leader Hafiz al-Asad. [applause] We reaffirm to his excellency our commitment to his line in building and liberation. Once again, I welcome you in the name of the president of the Republic in your country, Syria. I appreciate the trouble you took in your travel, and the time you set aside for this visit, hoping that you will have a nice stay, and wish for the continued progress and development of our relations for the goodness of humanity at large.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Returns From 'Friendly' Visit to India

LD0109162790 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, who paid an official and friendly visit to India at the head of a high-ranking delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan at the invitation His Excellency V.P. Singh, prime minister of the Republic of India, returned safely to Kabul. [passage omitted]

Najibullah Leads Delegation to France

LD0209164990 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, left Kabul this afternoon for France as head of a state delegation in order to participate in the second UN conference on the underdeveloped countries, which is due to begin in Paris tomorrow.

The following are the members of the Afghani delegation who will take part in the conference with esteemed Najibullah: Dr. 'Abdul Wahid Sorabi, deputy prime minister and minister of planning; 'Abdul Walkil, foreign minister; Muhammad Eshaq Tokhi, adviser to the president; Ghulam Sarwar Yurish, head of the Presidential Press Office and spokesman; Professor Dr. Mehr Muhammad Ejazi, minister of public health' 'Abdullah Bahar, deputy foreign minister; Sultan Husayn, first deputy planning minister; Najibullah Fayis, deputy planning minister; Habibullah, acting head of the Protocol Department of the Foreign Ministry.

According to a report by the BIA, the second UN conference on the underdeveloped countries will assess the difficult economic and social situation of these countries, the total number of which is 42 countries and will search effective ways for resolving their problems jointly.

Mujahidin Rockets Hit Kabul Around Scud Silos

BK0209152190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1453 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Kabul, Sept 2 (AFP)—Mujahidin guerrillas slammed at least five rockets into Kabul Sunday, a day after the government shifted several Scud missiles to their silos to target rebel positions. A government spokesman here and said some of the missiles fell around the Scud silos located near the luxury Intercontinental Hotel. [sentence as received] The spokesman said some rockets also crashed into two residential districts, causing some damage. He could not say if there were any casualties.

More than a dozen blasts were heard Sunday in different areas of Kabul but other government officials said some of them were outgoing rockets fired by the Afghan Army at rebel bases around the capital. City taxi drivers and residents said at least five people were killed in one area by the rocketting. These reports could not be immediately confirmed. The rocket attacks, after a lull of six days, were launched from the west of the capital.

"We cannot prevent the rockets from coming in ... It is a war of rockets," the spokesman said. Sunday's attacks occurred a day after the Kabul garrison moved several scud missiles to silos near the Intercontinental Hotel, witnesses said. Kabul has used these Soviet-supplied surface-to-surface missiles, which have a maximum range of 250 kilometers (150 miles), to target mujahidin positions in several provinces.

Army Orders Local Militias To Leave Kabul

BK0509084490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0825 GMT 5 Sep 90

[By Pratap Chakravarty]

[Text] Kabul, Sept 5 (AFP)—The Afghan Army has driven trigger-happy militias out of Kabul to bring discipline to the city in a move coinciding with a fresh anti-rebel military campaign of which the mercenaries are the mainstay. Analysts here saw an Afghan offensive that began Monday in nearby mountains as a well-timed device to placate hordes of militiamen ordered to dismantle their city headquarters and leave Kabul with their guns and bazookas.

"This way, the (Afghan) Army has met two objectives—they got the fighters out of Kabul and at the same time gave them the hope that they could again join a fight," one analyst said, referring to the war bounties paid to tribal warriors. A 10-day military deadline ordering tribal militia detachments to fold up their Kabul headquarters and return to their areas of operation or redeploy in the suburbs expired Sunday.

The tough order also warned the fighters not to bring guns into the city when they come shopping, saying military tribunals would deal firmly with such violations, handing out jail sentences and—more importantly—imposing pay cuts. But the eviction order triggered fears of street battles and the possible estrangement of some of the groups from the Soviet-backed regime of President Najibullah, which has relied heavily on them in its dragging fratricidal war, now 12 years old.

"Of course there has not been any substantial resistance (from the militia groups). Only some militia not aware of the government ruling had not left town" Tuesday, Kabul Garrison Commander General Nabi Azimi, who issued the decree, told reporters. Gen. Azimi's troops arrested 130 militiamen and seized 280 personal weapons on charges of violating the government order, raising qualms that the move could further distance the groups from the regular army, with which some of them have clashed in the past.

Gen. Azimi did not say if there had been any clashes during the arrests, made no reference to several militia

houses that could be seen guarded by mercenary reinforcements, and had measured words of praise for the armed groups. "Local militia commanders have in no way acted in the interests of the (anti-government) mujahedeen," the general said. "They have shown remarkable bravery in fighting alongside government forces on many fronts. We have no worries."

But he said the mercenaries were being kicked out of Kabul because of their general unruliness and frequent gun battles in the city streets. "Most of the militia left voluntarily and because they are loyal to the government, there was no misunderstanding," said Gen. Azimi, who controls three infantry divisions totalling 24,000 soldiers and at least one tank regiment.

Between eight and 10 powerful militia groups were headquartered in Kabul, controlling a sizeable chunk of the country's estimated 60,000 to 70,000 enlisted militiamen—almost double the size of the regular army. One analyst described the move as a calculated gamble and said the regime was "keeping its fingers crossed".

The mountains boomed with artillery fire from Monday as the army began shelling the Argandi Bolo range beyond the Paghman hills in Kabul's northwest, which it wrested from mujahedeen control recently with the help of tough Uzbek fighters under militia commander Mohammad Dostam.

"An operation has started in Argandi Bolo," an official spokesman said as the dull thud of explosions reverberated across Kabul, punctuated by the deafening roar of Soviet-made Luna surface to surface missiles ripping off their launching pads. "Of course the militia are involved in the operation," a foreign office spokesman said. It was the first time the tribal fighters had been driven out of Kabul since the Soviet Union completed its troop withdrawal from Afghanistan in February 1989.

Scud Missile Hits Rebel Base Near Jagdalek

BK0509101290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0956 GMT 5 Sep 90

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 5 (AFP)—Afghan troops fired a Soviet-made Scud missile on a mujahedeen base near Kabul and up to 40 guerrillas may have been killed, resistance sources said Wednesday. The pro-resistance AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) reported that the number dead could reach 40 after the missile hit a base of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan (NIFA) in the Jagdalek area 50 kilometers (30 miles) east of Kabul. Many more were injured, AIP said, including two important NIFA commanders, Rahim Wardak and Shah Rukh.

An NIFA spokesman in Islamabad confirmed the attack. He said the exact number of casualties was known but did not reveal it. The spokesman also denied that the two commanders were injured, but confirmed that they were in the area when the attack took place. The Soviet-made Scud surface-to-surface missile can carry more than 700 kilograms (1,500 pounds) of explosives and has a range of about 300 kilometers (180 miles).

Bangladesh

First Group of Troops Leaves for Saudi Arabia

UN To Evacuate Nationals

BK0409165990 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] The UN Disaster Relief Organization—UNDRO—today lined up 10 more flights to evacuate Bangladesh nationals trapped in the region following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Briefing newsmen, a Foreign Office spokesman said in Dhaka that UNDRO flights would start operating from tomorrow and continue till the 30th of this month to repatriate 4,500 Bangladeshis from the Gulf. Each of the 10 flights would airlift 450 people. Besides, the International Organization of Migration, IOM, has almost finalized the chartering of a ship with a capacity of carrying 2,000 passengers. The ship is expected to bring Bangladeshis home from Aqaba Port of Jordan, the spokesman said. The Bangladeshi officials at Geneva have apprised the IOM executives of the desperate situation in the Gulf.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh is likely to send tea to Jordan, responding to a call for emergency relief by the Jordanian Government. The spokesman narrated the relentless efforts of the government to evacuate the Bangladeshis stuck up at different points and said henceforth seven flights a week would be operated instead of five. About 3,500 Bangladeshis have been airlifted home till today.

The first batch of Bangladesh Army contingent left Dhaka for Saudi Arabia today. The contingent is part of the troops to be sent to Saudi Arabia from Bangladesh totally for defensive purposes. It will be under the Islamic command and will assist in the protection of the holy soil against outside aggression. Addressing the contingent at the airport prior to the departure, the chief of the Army staff, Lieutenant General Nuruddin Khan, expressed the hope that the Bangladeshi troops will discharge their duties with discipline, sincerity, and devotion. The second batch of the Army troops will leave Dhaka for Saudi Arabia tonight.

Nationals Arrive From Gulf

BK0109165290 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] The first batch of 297 Bangladeshi nationals who reached Turkey from Kuwait arrived in Dhaka today. The second batch of the Bangladeshis from Turkey will return home on Monday [3 September].

India

Efforts To Evacuate Citizens From Gulf Continue

Minister Gujral Comments

BK0109053290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, has said that the UN initiative and Iraq's response have given us some hope that war can be avoided in the Gulf. He was reporting to the members of the consultative committee attached to his ministry in New Delhi yesterday. He spoke of the nonaligned efforts to resolve the crisis and said the government is trying to build a world opinion for allowing food and medicines into Iraq.

About the efforts to evacuate Indians stranded in Kuwait and Iraq, he said India would try to take the help of friendly countries—Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates—for evacuating our nationals by ship. However, he said, the stranded Indians need not panic. He commended the Indian community in Kuwait for arranging a community kitchen to feed the stranded Indians there.

Meanwhile, the Indian Airlines has extended its operations to evacuate the stranded Indians from Kuwait and Iraq for one more week. It is operating an airbus in association with Air India since the 24th of last month. The airbus will operate daily between Amman, Dubayy, Trivandrum, and Bombay.

Air India To Fly Daily

BK3108164090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] A total of 230,000 refugees have so far crossed over to Jordan from Kuwait and Iraq and about 40,000 are now stranded on the border. The Jordanian authorities have started stopping the refugees at the border. The officials say that henceforth only the same number of people will be allowed to enter Jordan as are evacuated from there. At present, 60,000 refugees, including 3,000 Indians, are stranded in Amman. Another 4,000 Indians entered Jordan in the last two days and are on their way to Amman.

All-India Radio Gulf correspondent Avinash Goel says Air India will soon start evacuating 1,500 Indians daily, as it will have two Boeings and three airbuses operating from Amman everyday. So far, about 1,250 Indians from Kuwait have crossed into Saudi Arabia. Out of them, 1,180 have been repatriated to India.

Government Explores Options

BK0109110490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] India is making all arrangements to evacuate stranded nationals in Kuwait and Iraq by land, sea, and air. The government is exploring the possibility of evacuating them through friendly nations—Bahrain and United Arab Emirates [UAE]—by ship. The plan involves three stages of operation. First, by land from Basra to Bandar Khomeyni in Iran, and from there by ship to Bahrain and UAE Later, they can be flown or sailed home.

Meanwhile, New Delhi has reiterated its appeal to the Indian nationals stranded in the Gulf not to get panicky and rush to Basra or Amman for evacuation.

Two special Air India flights landed in Bombay this morning with 587 Indians from Amman. With this, over 10,000 Indians who were stranded in Kuwait have been brought home by Air India flights. Two more flights are expected to land later in the day. An Air India spokesman said that the airlines is also likely to increase the number of special flights from four to five a day.

Meanwhile, Indian Airlines has extended its operation for one more week to evacuate the stranded Indians from Kuwait and Iraq. It is operating an airbus in association with Air India since the 24th of last month. The airbus will operate daily between Amman, Dubayy, Trivandrum, and Bombay.

Air Force To Evacuate Nationals

BK0109161690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] Indian Air Force planes are expected to begin operations by Monday to evacuate the Indian nationals stranded in Kuwait and Iraq directly from Baghdad. It will operate three flights for every two days. This was decided at the meeting of the Cabinet subcommittee set up to look after the problems of Indians stranded there. The committee, chaired by the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, also decided in its first meeting in New Delhi today to increase the number of Air India services and divert two ships of the Shipping Corporation of India—Tipu Sultan and Akbar—to the Gulf areas from wherever they are positioned now.

The foreign secretary, Mr. Muchkund Dubey, told the meeting that Iran has given permission for overflying its territory by Indian planes.

Measures To Help Citizens Outlined

BK0409162990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] India has taken a series of measures to help the Indians stranded in Kuwait. The first consignment of foodstuffs has been airlifted to Amman to overcome the shortage being faced by about 12,000 Indian nationals awaiting repatriation at Amman. The consignment comprised 17 tons of rice, dal [lentils] and milk powder.

Air India, now operating six flights per day, will press into service from tomorrow two more aircraft charted from Aeroflot with a seating capacity of 174 each. Negotiations are also on to charter more planes for speedy evacuation. The plan to evacuate directly from

Baghdad, Basra, and Kuwait using transport aircraft of the Indian Air Force is being finalized and necessary clearance is awaited. Besides, the government has also asked Customs authorities to be liberal in clearing the baggage of repatriates under the transfer of residence facility. Educational authorities have been told to instruct all kendriya vidhayalas [government schools] to ensure admission of children of repatriates. The children would need no transfer certificate, and an affidavit on a two-rupee stamp paper would do. A photostat copy of the passport would meet the requirement for birth certificates. The Central Board of Secondary Education has already carried out these decisions.

A special courier carrying mail from the relatives from India reached Kuwait today. The first mail was delivered on the 20th of last month.

New Delhi is in constant touch with Kuwait and there is no shortage of water or electricity there. Food is available through ration shops. It is understood that two commercial banks have started functioning. One Indian national Mr. Sajjan P. Ibrahim sustained bullet injuries when he was shot by someone while he was in the queue to draw his money. Later, he died in a hospital.

Air India Increases Daily Flights

BK0409075690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Air India has increased to six its daily flights from Amman to Bombay and Delhi to evacuate Indian nationals coming from Iraq and Kuwait. With this, 1,720 people flew home yesterday. Agency reports from Amman, quoting diplomatic sources, said that 2,800 Indians are awaiting flights, while another 3,000 to 4,000 are on their way to the Jordanian capital.

Meanwhile, government has again advised the Indian nationals stranded in Kuwait not to rush to Basra or Amman as the plans to evacuate them direct from Baghdad, Basra, and possibly Kuwait are being worked out. About an Indian Air Force plane joining this fleet, a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said the formalities are still being completed.

Commentary Criticizes U.S. Diplomacy in Crisis

BK3108143190 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Commentary by Sridhar, a research associate of the Institute for Defense Studies and Analysis]

[Text] On 2 September, a month is completed of Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The initial response of the rest of the world to this unprecedented event in the post World War II period was largely orchestrated by the United States and Britain. Where tact and diplomacy are needed to bring the status quo ante, both these countries thought force is to be met with greater force. In the process, they brought the Persian Gulf to the brink of a war, the consequences of which are yet to be properly analyzed. The U.S. coercive diplomacy already brought in considerable resentment among the Arab people. The street demonstrations in support of Iraq in Egypt, Jordan, and other Arab countries already charged the atmosphere in the Arab world. The landing of U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia further enhanced this charged atmosphere, bringing in new uncertainties in the region.

One of the important lessons we can draw from the present crisis in the Persian Gulf and the U.S. and its allies' response to it is that the latter are willing to go to any extent to protect their interests. In the process, they are trying to [word indistinct] themselves the status of managers of the international system. This may not be acceptable to some of the developing countries. The current Persian Gulf crisis has shown that the saner elements in the Arab world have different approach to resolve the problem. If they succeed—it is likely to be—the developing countries of the South would demonstrate to the rest of the world their capacity to resolve their problems without outside interference.

The Indian reaction to the Persian Gulf crisis from the beginning has been a cautious one because of the large number of Indian work force both in Kuwait and Iraq. While condemning the aggression in the United Nations, India refused to endorse the U.S.-orchestrated response. India's immediate interests in the Persian Gulf are largely the welfare of the Indian work force, oil imports, and remittances in that order. Unlike the other South Asian countries, without waiting, India took the initiative in finding ways and means of getting back the stranded workers in Kuwait and Iraq. The Indian foreign minister was the first to visit Baghdad and Kuwait from 18 to 20 August and was to personally assure the Indian work force there about the arrangements being made to evacuate them, which was unprecedented. In fact, the magnitude of the problem is so enormous that the way Indian missions there responded to it is exemplary. The way the Air India and Indian Airlines responded to evacuate stranded Indians from the Persian Gulf has few parallels in the contemporary history. Everyday, these carriers are bringing back about 1,500 people back home, and the follow-up arrangements after they reach places like Bombay to send them to their respective homes is working quite efficiently. The next immediate problem is how to rehabilitate these people who are returning home gainfully. [sentence as heard]

On the crude oil import front, the government was able to find alternative sources of supply quickly. The contracted supplies of crude oil from the beginning of August will see India through in the immediate future. Regarding loss of remittances from Iraq and Kuwait and exports to these countries, Indian economy has acquired the necessary resilience to cope with the loss.

Agitation Over Job Reservation Policy Continues

Premier on Christians, Muslims

BK3108134590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has said a broad consensus approach will have to be evolved on the

question of providing reservation to the minorities like Christians and Muslims in government jobs. Intervening during question time in the Rajya Sabha today, he said the government has been receiving several representations from these communities and these are under consideration. He noted that the issue needs to be thoroughly looked into as it requires amendment to the Constitution and added there is a need for a consensus approach. Earlier, the prime minister informed the House that a very large section of the minorities in Uttar Pradesh and various other states will be benefited under the Mandal Commission report [on job reservation for the underprivileged].

The labor and welfare minister, Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan, who replied to the main question said the center has not accepted the concept of minorities at the state level. He said that the National Minorities Finance Development Corporation is being set up for economic uplift of these communities.

Curfew Reimposed in Cuttack

BK3108131590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] In Orissa, the curfew was reimposed from 1100 this morning till tomorrow morning as tension mounted in Cuttack City in the midst of antireservation agitation.

Police Kill Two in Orissa

BK0109162290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] Two persons died when police opened fire near Nirakarpur railway station in Puri District in Orissa to disperse a violent mob which set fire to a diesel engine and a bogey attached to it. Police also resorted to fire at (Branpur) and Balugaon when the agitators attacked the police station. One person died in Balugaon. The demonstrators set fire to a government office at Keonjhar.

Situation Said Improving

BK0209163890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] In Gujarat, the students unions have decided to call off their agitation against implementation of the Mandal Commission report [suggesting reservation of jobs for the underprivileged]. All educational institutions in the state which had been closed for the last four days will reopen from tomorrow. This was decided at a meeting held between the Gujarat chief minister, Mr. Chimanbhai Patel, the university senate members, and the secretaries of college unions at Ahmedabad today.

In Orissa, the situation following violent agitation by antireservationists is also reported to have improved. The death toll in the agitation has risen to five with another person succumbing to his injuries today. The curfew has been withdrawn from Cuttack and Kendrapara and the situation is under control at Nirakarpur and Balugaon.

In Haryana, some coaches of the Bhiwani Express were set on fire by the agitators. Kinana station at Rohtak-Jind section was also set on fire.

In Himachal Pradesh, agitators blocked vehicular traffic on the Chamba-Pathankot Road. In Uttar Pradesh, all educational institutions in Moradabad District have been closed for seven days. Prohibitory orders have been promulgated in Deoria and Dehra Dun districts.

In Bihar, the demonstrators set fire to a State Transport Corporation bus at village Fatehpur. In Delhi, students of the IIT [Indian Institute of Technology] have begun a relay hunger strike in their campus to protest against the government decision to implement the Mandal Commission recommendations.

Muzaffarpur TV Center Torched

BK0309155290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] In Bihar, antireservationists [those against job reservation for socially backward class people] today resorted to arson at the Doordarshan [Television] center in Muzaffarpur. Students blocked all vehicular traffic for several hours on the Muzaffarpur-Sitamarri road. The Sri Krishna Medical College at Muzaffarpur has been closed indefinitely due to prevailing tension among the different sections of the youth. In Ranchi, a 12-hour bundh [strike] today evoked partial response. At least six persons were injured in sporadic incidents.

Delhi Reports Incidents

BK0309164690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] The chief minister of Himachal Pradesh, Mr. Shanta Kumar, has appealed to the students and the youth to suspend their antireservation agitation. Government, he said, has already made it clear that it will consult them before taking any action on the Mandal commission report.

In Nahan town of Himachal Pradesh, the Army today staged a flag march, following last night's clashes there between supporters and opponents of [job] reservation. Nine policemen, including an additional S.P. [Superintendent of Police], a D.S.P. [Deputy Superintendent of Police] and an inspector were injured, when the police tried to intervene in last night's clash.

In Uttar Pradesh, one person was killed in police firing today at Salempur town, when antireservation agitators turned violent and indulged in arson. The Orissa government has decided to institute an inquiry into the recent police firing incident, which resulted in six casualties.

Protest Continues in Several States

BK0409152690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Anti-reservation agitation continued in several parts of the country today also. In New Delhi, hundreds of students held a rally at the Boat Club to protest against the Mandal Commission recommendations [reserving 27 percent of jobs for scheduled castes]. Reports say that farmers also joined the rally. No untoward incident was reported during the rally. In Bihar, one person was killed and 10 injured, including three policemen in police firing, lathi [baton] charge, teargassing, and bomb explosion as the agitation turned violent in Patna today. The pro-reservationists also held several rallies in Bihar. Our Patna correspondent reports that all entry routes to Patna have been sealed as a precautionary measure to prevent any confrontation between the pro- and anti-reservationists. Heavy police and paramilitary forces have been deployed in sensitive areas.

In Himachal Pradesh, state government and public undertaking employees did not attend office today and staged a massive rally in Simla. The traffic was disrupted at many places in the state.

In Orissa, the overall law and order situation remained under control today. An official press release described the situation as fast returning to normal after a week-long disturbances due to anti-reservation agitation. The state government has sought people's cooperation in identifying the anti-social elements who are trying to take advantage of the situation. Reports of anti-reservation agitation have also come in from Punjab and Haryana.

Further Reportage on PRC Border Committee

Agreement To Build Trust

BK3108162490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] India and China have agreed that nothing should be done to increase tension on their borders while efforts are on to find a solution to the border issue. The two sides felt it is vital that they build a base of trust and confidence between them to create a better atmosphere for strengthening relations. The matter came up for discussion when the visiting vice foreign minister, Mr. Qi Huaiyuan, called on the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, in New Delhi.

Foreign Secretary Comments

BK0109161990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] India and China have reached a concrete agreement to evolve a mechanism under which military personnel will meet to maintain peace and tranquility in their border areas. The meeting will take place from time to time at a predetermined place—both in the eastern and western sectors of their borders. This was the main outcome of the three days of discussions of the Joint Working Group of India and China which met in New Delhi to discuss the border issue. The foreign secretary, Mr. Muchkund Dubey, led the Indian side and the Chinese vice foreign minister, Mr. Qi Huaiyuan, led his side at the talks.

Later, in an interview to our correspondent, Sebastian Roberts, in New Delhi this evening, the foreign secretary, Mr. Muchkund Dubey, said that India made basically three suggestions, including identifying the exact positions of military deployment in the border areas and freezing and thinning out the positions later. He said though there is no specific agreement on this, the very fact that both sides have agreed to have a regular meeting of the military persons is an indicator of the significant results of the dialogue. Mr. Dubey said the Indian side emphasized a realistic and practical approach to the problem and to look more to the future instead of harping on the past. He said the two sides discussed the principles and parameters which should govern the settlement of the border issue. Both also reviewed their bilateral ties and agreed to substantially increase the scholarships available to Indian and Chinese students under the current exchange program. The high level of the political visit is an indicator of the excellent relations between the two nations, Mr. Dubey added.

He said the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, will visit China some time in October and the Chinese premier, Mr. Li Peng, will visit India by the end of this year.

An External Affairs Ministry spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi that the two sides expressed the hope that by working in a sincere manner they will be able to establish a basis for a solution to the boundary question as well as to maintain peace and tranquility in border areas.

The third meeting of the working groups will be held in Beijing next year.

Joint Communique Issued on Najibullah Visit

LD0209090190 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0526 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Kabul, Sep. 1, BAKHTAR—The leaders of the two countries expressed satisfaction in relation to the bilateral relation and steps taken recently in the 9th sessions of the joint commission for the distinguishing of new fields of cooperation and deepening and acceleration of existed one. Says the joint communique released at the end of the official and friendly visit of Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) to India which took place, from August 29-31, at the invitation of V.P. Singh, prime minister of India and leadership authorities of that republic.

This visit was a part of the cherished tradition of exchange of high-ranking delegations between the two countries [word indistinct] close ties of friendship between the two countries people's existing since old

ages between Afghanistan and India. During his stay to India Najibullah met with Rama Swami Venkataraman, president of India.

Also, the Afghan president had separate meetings with Dr. Shankar Daial Sharma, vice president, Inder Kumar Gujral, external affairs minister, Aaron Nehru, minister of commerce and Aref Mohammad Khan, minister of civil aviation, leaders of different political parties in the Indian parliament and representatives of social organizations of India, the communique adds. Also, the Afghan president delivered his speech at the headquarters of Indian Council for World Affairs. During his meeting with representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and industries of India the Afghan president spoke on the new economic policy and investments in the RA aimed at reconstruction of the country and speedy growth of the Afghan economy. Najibullah conducted extensive talks on bilateral, regional and world cooperation with V.P. Singh prime minister of India.

The communique stressed contracts on the exchange of cultural programme, note of understanding for cooperation among the agricultural researcher institutes and agreement on the prevention of the smuggling of narcotics were concluded during the visit.

The prime minister of India expressed implementation of the commitments of his country for the extending of possible bilateral and multilateral humanistic assisence to Afghanistan. The Republic of India put an amount of 13000 rpt 13000 tonnes of wheat sowing seeds for Afghanistan at the disposal of the office of the coordinator of the UN assistance to Afghanistan. An accord on the provision of 50,000 rpt 50,000 tonnes of wheat by India to the RA was also reached during the visit.

Situation around and inside Afghanistan was assessed in [word indistinct] of it's dimensions.

The Afghan president acquainted the Indian prime minister with the national reconciliation policy and its gains so far achieved. Expressing his satisfaction on the developing of events, the Indian prime minister stressed on the continued stand of India on Afghanistan and stated that reasonable way for the solution of the Afghan problem is a political one keeping in view the existing realities, [word indistinct] interests of the sides concerned.

The Indian prime minister appraised his distinguished guest on the extensive understanding which exists for the support of such an approach in India and recalled resolution of the Indian parliament reached on August 24 as an example. The two leaders while assessing the regional reflections of the war continues in Afghanistan stated that peace and stability in region could be widely ensured through negotiations and political solution of the Afghan issue.

The sides stated that such developments correspond with the process of present procedure of international developments. The sides expressed concern that continuation of dispute and attempts for its solution militarily would produce nothing except on the negative, it stresses. The sides demanded immediate and complete implementation of the Geneva accords and cessation of foreign interventions in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

The leaders of the two countries agreed that observance of the internationally accepted principles is a precondition for the restoration of peace and stability in the region. These principles which are enshrined in the charter of the UN and principles of the Non-Aligned Movement are composed of [word indistinct] in the internal affairs of Countries. [passage indistinct] Preventing of committing acts undermining unity and territorial integrity of the states.

They confirmed on the urgent necessity of the observation of the principals of peaceful co-existence and to avoid from helping cessationist and terroristic activities. The leaders of the two countries greed to assist progress and prosperity of the south Asian countries.

The Indian prime minister expressed the hope that the Republic of Afghanistan should eventually occupy its favourable [word indistinct] as member of the South Asian Association Regional [passage indistinct] cooperations "SAARC" and to play sound role in the region. Najibullah, president of the RA invited Rama Swami Venkataraman to pay an official visit to Afghanistan which was accepted with pleasure, the India joint communique concludes.

Najibullah Gives News Conference in New Delhi

LD0209214990 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 2 Sep 90

[News conference with Afghan President Najibullah and foreign and domestic reporters in the Indian Foreign Ministry's press center in New Delhi on 30 August—recorded; questions are in English followed by Dari translation]

[Text] [Najibullah] Respected journalists:

I am very pleased to see you in the beautiful country of India, the people of which are historic friends and friends of difficult days. You know that I am making an official visit at the invitation of V.P. Singh, the prime minister of the Republic of India. Taking this opportunity, I would like to express, in your presence, my deep gratitude for the warm welcome and hospitality I and my accompanying delegation have received. Meetings and exchanges of views, in light of the changes which have taken place in the region and the world, led to the necessity of meeting closely so that such an exchange of views could occur.

Fortunately there is an understanding and similar stances on various fields of issues of interest in the Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of India. It creates a basis for further consolidation and expansion of bilateral friendship and cooperation in an effort toward the consolidation of peace and stability in the region and ensuring the security of the people of the two countries.

I think as far as the military, political, and operative situation in our country, the Republic of Afghanistan, is concerned, you journalists should know about it in detail compared with others. I do not want to take much of your time in this respect, but I would like to stress that the Republic of Afghanistan and friendly Republic of India, in line with principles and aims of the UN Charter and the pursuit of a nonaligned policy, are staunch supporters of peace and stability in the region. If that stability and security of the people of the region are jeopardized by the developments of situation and events, it would be a matter of common concern and apprehension for both countries.

The Republic of Afghanistan, with confidence and full trust, declares that we announce our resolute support for the efforts of the Republic of India and its role for peace and stability in the region and for the repulsing of any kind of interference, secessionism, and terrorism. You know that traditional and cultural friendship between the people of India and Afghanistan have deep historic roots; events and movements taking place in the contemporary world affect both countries (?similarly). We support the expansion of bilateral relations and the securing of mutual fruitful cooperation between our countries in all fields, for example, economic, trade, technical, and cultural fields, and, in addition, our political clocks show the same in respect to many regional and international issues. Therefore, this second visit of myself and my entourage to the Republic of India, which demonstrates the high level of our friendship and relations, will lead to further consolidation of those relations and stances. I will not take any more of your time and let you have the rest of the time. Now, I am at your service, and you may ask your questions.

[Unidentified reporter] [words indistinct] (?about the situation of a transitional government and what will be your stance with regard to that government?)

[Najibullah] We have proposed a program, of peace and ways for its implementation in this regard. We have accepted the transitional stage within that program, which starts from the opening of talks between the various political forces involved in Afghanistan's conflict and goes through the free and democratic election of a new government. A ceasefire should be established at the opening of talks. An Afghan peace conference should be held with the participation of all the forces interested in the peace process.

Otherwise, a joint commission should be formed directly as a result of talks, that will have authority to accelerate the process of preparation for the elections. This commission can also appoint a number of committees to approve the election laws and to draft a new constitution. Loya Jirga [Grand National Assembly] will be called to approve these laws and elect a leader. The preparation work for the Loya Jirga should be organized by this commission. Parliamentary elections will then be held based on the election laws.

Parliament is a basic democratic right: whoever wins the majority in these elections can form the future government. The decisions of the joint commission should [word indistinct]. During this transitional period, the regions under the influence of either side shall remain with them. The administrative, political, and military structure shall remain as it is. And the joint commission, besides preparing for elections, should carry out other duties such as distribution of the UN assistance, overseeing the return of refugees and their resettlement, and ensuring safe conditions for elections.

Therefore, for this reason, the state of the Republic of Afghanistan has announced recently that it is ready to transfer several authorities of several ministries involved in connection with these duties to the joint commission, which should have (?consensual) decisions.

At the time when the administrative structure of the government will generally remain as they are up to the results of the elections, in order to ensure safe elections, the state of the Republic of Afghanistan is ready to form and put at the disposal of the joint commission a number of the detachments of the Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Interior together in a structure with the detachments of the opposition for those who might intend to disrupt the safe condition of the elections. The structure of the Armed Forces will generally remain as it is.

As for propaganda, the state of the Republic of Afghanistan has shown readiness that the governmental mass media services, together with the opposition mass media services can all be put at the disposal of the joint commission in order to serve propaganda and campaign purposes of the consensual decisions of the commission.

As is known, some extremists might not join the peace process—therefore, if the question of negative symmetry is discussed, this negative symmetry should be put into practice with two conditions. First, all the joint Afghan forces, together with the consensus of a number of the countries, should show similar reaction if they face such a reaction [sentence as heard]. This negative symmetry should be implemented in a complex and comprehensive way. The halt of the military assistance by the United States and the Soviet Union is not being discussed, but it should involve all sources from all sides.

You are well informed that this is not only the United States and the Soviet Union—there are many other countries which provide arms specially to the oppositions. Similarly, there are arms free markets and international arms smugglers. The extremists who will not join the peace process will have arms depots at their disposal. Therefore, there must be a strong international guarantee. This was our stance.

[INDIAN EXPRESS reporter] You have mentioned your initiatives about a political internal solution by means of talks and dialogue. At the same time you have proposed that India should take the initiative and hold a peace conference for South Asia. Does this mean that the

implementation of the Geneva Accords has failed? What do you really expect from India?

[Najibullah] In addition to the proposed internal Afghan mechanism, an international conference for a political solution of the Afghanistan issue—which we can call it—is needed to create international consensus in its foreign dimension. It could be a regional conference. Yesterday in our preliminary meeting with the Indian leadership, we came to the view that India can initiate such a conference among South Asian countries in this respect. Of course they said that this stance and such proposals have been voiced several times by the Republic of Afghanistan. When dialogue and negotiation begins in earnest, the various and solid aspects of this issue can be finalized through mutual understanding. Despite the fact that we welcome international efforts by international organizations, the United Nations, the superpowers—especially the understanding that is taking shape between the Soviet Union and the United States—the key to solving the issue is in the hands of Afghans themselves. Only Afghans can decide the fate of the political issue of Afghanistan through dialogue and by making possible free and democratic elections.

[Unidentified reporter] What is the stance of your country with regard to the Gulf issue? Do you approve or reject the siege of Iraq by United States military forces? What is the stance of your country in connection with the resolving of the Gulf issue?

[Najibullah] We think the situation in the Gulf is getting more complicated every day, and there is the threat of military conflict. The stance of the Republic of Afghanistan is that as a result of this crisis (?division) has been created among Arab countries. The issue should not be solved by force, power, military means, or military confrontation but should be solved on the basis of the UN Charter and all accepted international norms and, especially given the new climate of political detente in the world, by political means. The Republic of Afghanistan believes that the United Nations should lead directly and supervise all moves in the process. We hope that international efforts can be focused on reducing tension in the region and can place political solutions before military ones. On a humanitarian basis, we support the sending of medical assistance and medicine and food to the people of this region. As you know, we do not have any trade or economic relations with Iraq. However, as Afghanistan is a member of the United Nations Organization, we support the implementation of the UN stance not only in one direction but in all directions. The UN Charter states that issues should not be solved by means of power or force.

[Unidentified reporter] Esteemed president, the people of Afghanistan have supported your government since the withdrawal of Soviet forces. You have been able to defend your country. Why are you ready to talk to the opposition supported by Pakistan and other countries?

[Najibullah] If someone asks you who is in favor of war and who is in favor of peace, who among you will raise his or her hands and say that he or she supports war? Our reconciliation policy wants peace. Naturally it has been supported by all the people of Afghanistan and its various groups not only in Afghanistan but in the region and in the world.

World public opinion, including the West, including the United States, supports a political solution of the problem of Afghanistan; apart from a limited number of...[rewords] some limited groups of extremists everyone says with one voice that they want a political solution of the Afghan problem. Not only does the world want a political solution of the Afghan problem but also such a solution of regional disputes anywhere in the world. There is no war between the USSR and the United States—there are contacts, compromises, dialogues, and negotiations.

[Asia News International reporter] Esteemed president, Afghanistan always believed in secularism; all members of your party had to be Muslims. [sentence as heard] What is your comment on this?

[Najibullah] Afghanistan is an Islamic country. It is registered in the Constitution that all laws have to be in line with Islamic sharia [law]. Islam will be followed and will be practiced. The Fatherland Party, which regards the Constitution its national document, cannot act against it. Therefore in the Constitution of the Fatherland party, in line with Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan, we introduced that all members of this party have to have serious adherence to Islamic sharia. But the constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan has allowed the performance of the rituals of other religions as well.

[The NEW YORK TIMES reporter] Can you say some points on the contents of your last week's talks with M. Gorbachev? And is it true that the only problem—especially between you and the United States, and between you and the Soviet Union—is your position as president during the transitional period?

[Najibullah] As you know, my visit to the Soviet Union was not an official visit. I had been there for some medical examinations. In connection with the political solution and its mechanism, there is an extensive agreement beween Afghanistan and the USSR, about which I have previously spoken to you in detail. As far as the stance of the United States under the present circumstances is concerned, we notice many signs that the United States is now backing the idea of the solution of the Afghan problem by the Afghans themselves, through dialogue and negotiations, reaching to an agreement on holding free elections, taking into account the existing political realities of Afghanistan. We welcome that.

[Unidentified reporter] Your Excellency Mr. President, please shed some light on the political future of (?the Fatherland Party]. Would you step down from power and the presidency of the Fatherland Party for peace, and so that this aim is achieved?

[Najibullah] Our stance is that the Afghan problem cannot be resolved by this or that political personality or political group stepping aside. The stepping aside of political forces or political personalities cannot resolve the problem, but the coming together of political personalities and forces can help resolve the Afghan problem, and will lead to the ensuring of peace. Let us entertain realities instead of wishfulness, and help with matters that will lead to the restoration of peace and not the further confusion of the situation. Thank you.

Assam Activists Reportedly Get Arms From Burma

BK0509091890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 90

[Text] The center is constantly monitoring the situation in Assam in the wake of the increased antinational activities by the so-called United Liberation Front of Assam [ULFA]. The minister of state for home, Mr. Subodh Kant Sahay, informed the Rajya Sabha during question hour that the center has provided all possible assistance to the state government in terms of men, material, and funds to deal with the situation. He said the ULFA activists are receiving arms from across the Burma border. The minister admitted that the ULFA activists have snatched over 1,500 licensed weapons from the people and extorted substantial sums of money from them during June this year. He said the Assam government is holding an all-party meeting soon to discuss the problem.

Iran

Velayati Offers Cooperation in Gulf Solution

LD0409170690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] In their meeting this afternoon, Rashid 'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, and our country's foreign minister, Mr. Velayati, reviewed the situation in the Persian Gulf region as well as bilateral relations between the UAE and Iran. Referring to the important and sensitive role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Persian Gulf region Mr. 'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi stressed the need for cooperation between the regional countries and the Islamic countries in an effort to solve the crisis in the Persian Gulf.

According to the report, Mr. Velayati referred to the crisis which has been created on account of the occupation of Kuwait and the presence of foreign forces in the region. He said: The presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf is not in the interests of the people of the region. The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to cooperate with the countries of the Persian Gulf region to solve the crisis which has thus been created.

Karrubi Condemns Iraq Aggression, U.S. Presence

LD0409173190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Mr. Karrubi, the Majles speaker, who is visiting Khorramabad, attended a gathering of the people of that town this afternoon and thanked the people of that province for enduring hardships during the war. He said: Today our nation with its repeated victories in the international arena against its enemies, is now reaping the results of its eight-years of patience and steadfastness during the period of holy defense.

Condemning the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and the despatch of forces by America and other western countries to the Persian Gulf region, he added: How does America, which is the germ of corruption and aggression, wish to prevent aggression? Mr. Karrubi pointed out that America's main aim in its military presence in the Persian Gulf is to dominate this oil-rich region and the reactionary countries of the region. This will not be acceptable under any circumstances to our Muslim nation.

Referring to the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran has the longest coastline and greatest interests in the Persian Gulf, he expressed his hope that with the people's decisive support for the esteemed leader, the government, and other officials, the situation will come to a conclusion in the interest of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

On the basis of this report, Mr. Karrubi later left for Pol-e Dokhtar district and at a gathering of the people of that district praised the peerless self-sacrifice and valor of the steadfast people of Pol-e Dokhtar in the course of the war.

Paper Views U.S. 'Preparation' for Attack on Iraq

LD0409165990 Tehran IRNA in English 1535 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sep. 4, IRNA—Washington awaits a political maturity of the situation in the Persian Gulf before it may attack Iraq, believes a Persian daily. And to do so, said ETTELA'AT, "the U.S. would need, inter alia, Moscow's approval of the military plan, and an assurance that its military action will not touch a series of sympathetic cords elsewhere to the detriment of Washington and its European allies."

It said the present crisis in the Persian Gulf is a consequence of Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, and the expanding military presence of the west in the region is entering a crucial juncture. "In the face of the continuing Iraqi military occupation of Kuwait and despite the fact that the political leadership of the Ba'thist Government has thus far successfully prevented a military attack by the U.S. through various diplomatic devices as well as the issue of western hostages, already there are signs that speak for the preparation of grounds for an attack against Iraq by Washington and its allies," believed the daily.

It commented that Pentagon will engage in military action against Iraq when:

"- It has won Moscow's endorsement of U.S. military action in the Persian Gulf.

"- Washington and company are confident that such action will not entail turmoil elsewhere which might precipitate an increase in oil prices in the course of, and pursuant to the military action.

"- The failure of Arab governments and the efforts of the U.N. chief for a peaceful settlement of the problem are all too evident.

"- Bush succeeds in convincing the congress of the advisability of expenditures to be made for military action against Iraq, and also succeeds in enlisting the financial, political and military contribution of Arab and non-Arab allies for that purpose.

"- The U.S. has the legal support of a U.N. resolution authorizing military action.

"- The U.S. has done some realistic progress in the task of finding a politically suitable successor to Saddam Husayn's government which it is out to topple.

"- The troops in the region have increased as a basic ground to assure the Americans good results in an eventual confrontation with the Iraqi forces."

ETTELA'AT thought that Washington has been markedly successful in its efforts for creating favourable grounds for that purpose.

It went on to cite the passing of U.N. Security Council resolutions "one after another" against Iraq's occupation and annexation of Kuwait, the unprecedented international consensus on the need for the Iraqi withdrawal, the meeting of oil ministers of the Organization of Oil Exporting Countries (OPEC), followed by increase in oil exports to compensate for the four million BPD of Iraqi-Kuwaiti oil now off the market because of the sanctions against Iraq.

"The unofficial decision was protested by the Iranian envoy at the meet," it said pointing out that Saudi Arabia and Venezuela had already started pumping at the maximum level "to glut the oil market and prevent any further increase in prices."

It seems Washington is trying to win Moscow's total agreement with a military attack against Iraq, said the daily and believed that the two superpowers were having "effective collaboration" on the persian Gulf issue.

Pentagon is beefing up its forces in the region "both in quantity and quality" which if continued at the same tempo, added ETTELA'AT "means that by mid-autumn the ground force of the U.S. in the region will be equal to the Iraqi ground forces, although whether the United States will eventually be able to help the internal forces in Iraq against Saddam Husayn at a climactic juncture of events is yet an open question."

It thought that "Washington cannot afford to stop at a military blow short of sealing the doom of Saddam and the blow must inescapably be complimented by some sort of political action inside Iraq to assure the U.S. of the results it desires."

However, the commentary said that the passing of time only serves to further complicate the "possibility of a political compromise between Washington and Baghdad. A compromise that will be humiliating to the U.S. as well as a threat against its protege the Zionist regime in the long run, and certainly bound to cause distrust among Arabs toeing the American line."

On that basis one can safely conclude that under the present circumstances the "prospects of a military attack against Iraq by the United States seems more likely than it seemed until a recent past," said the paper.

Papers Analyze Gulf Crisis, Role of U.S.

LD0409112290 Tehran IRNA in English 1027 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 4, IRNA—Two morning dailies Tuesday editorialized on the mounting crisis in the Persian Gulf region and noted that the U.S. plans a war of attrition in this sensitive part of the world. 'JOMHURIYE ESLAMI' stressed that the U.S. has massed the NATO forces in the area under the pretext of defending regional states, but the real objective is getting control of the oil-rich region.

It described as "irritating" the recent remarks of the former Kuwaiti defence minister that if he was the commander of the U.S. forces, he would have immediately ordered an attack on Iraq. It castigated wishful thinking of Kuwait's al-Sabah family who believe the NATO forces in the area to end Iraqi military occupation of Kuwait.

No doubt, the daily added, reinstatement of the aggressor and his aggressive ambitions will put the region in total insecurity. But, what is more dangerous is the reinstatement of corrupt regimes such as the one in Saudi Arabia and the former regime in Kuwait. It underscored the necessity of maintaining security in the region and stressed that this will come with the removal of the agents involved in encouraging and arming the aggressor.

Meanwhile, 'ABRAR' pointed to the U.S. hesitation in becoming involved in a military confrontation with Iraq's one-million strong army. Indications are that the U.S. will avoid a direct confrontation with Iraq. Instead, it will instigate a showdown between army of one of the regional states with Iraq and them come into the aid of the one warring with Iraq, it added. Military observers in the region believe that Washington is counting on Egypt and Turkey with the latter enjoying a better position because of its million-plus army, membership in NATO and also its common border with Iraq.

The U.S. by righting off Turkey's dlrs. 7.3 billion and Egypt's dlrs. 6.7 billion debts has awarded them for challenging Iraq. It wrote. However, Turkey as an ally of the U.S. and the Western Europe and with its long-standing claims over Kirkuk oil resources, after having

received the U.S. award for its confrontation with Iraq is now fantasizing membership in EEC as a reward from the Western Europe.

Editorial Criticizes 'Helplessness' of Arabs, U.S.

NC1908171290 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 7 Aug 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Helpless Arabs"]

[Text] All the former allies of the Iraqi dictator in the West and the Arab world express surprise over the current aggression of Iraq against its southern neighbor. They give the impression that they never expected Saddam would ever commit such an atrocity.

But the truth is if not all, most of them are hypocritically pretending to have been shocked. At least those Arab heads of state, including Kuwait's emir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, who attended the Arab Summit in Baghdad a few weeks ago, should not pretend what Saddam did was unexpected. All of them when in Baghdad last June acclaimed Saddam as an Arab demigod and literally behaved like lambs in front of a lion. It was there that Saddam was acknowledged as a great contemporary Arab leader—the man who saved the Arabs from the danger of annihilation—as if the Islamic Republic of Iran was the aggressor in the Iraq-Iran war and because of Saddam, the Arab states were saved. When Saddam actually claimed having accomplished this feat there was no one in the audience to point out it was not true.

As regards the astonishment displayed by the statement in the West it can be proved that they too are hypocrites. In January last year Edward Mortimer, the assistant foreign affairs editor of the British daily Financial Times, strongly criticized the West for its support of Saddam. The writer referring to Iraq's development of long-range ballistic missiles, its acquisition of control of Western military technology companies and its subversion of Western banking regulations to overcome credit restrictions, noted that Saddam's "megalomania is a threat to all his neighbors and to world peace."

"He is trying for size the mantle of pan-Arab champion in a region now devoid of credible heroes," wrote another British columnist, David Hirst in the June 8 issue of the Guardian.

Didn't the West hear what Saddam himself said on July 17? In a speech to mark the 22nd anniversary of the coup d'etat which brought the ruling Ba'th party to power Saddam accused Arab rulers of promoting American interests. "Oh God Almighty be witness that we have warned them," he said and added, "If words fail to protect Iraqis, something effective must be done to return things to their natural course and return usurped rights to their owners. Iraqis will not forget the maxim that cutting necks is better than cutting the means of living."

Statesmen in the West cannot say that they never thought Iraq would attack Kuwait. At least the United States, with the notorious CIA at its disposal, should not claim that it was taken unawares.

But what else can Washington say? Isn't it more humiliating if U.S. President George Bush confesses the truth that he knew about Iraq's designs but couldn't do anything to save the tiny and defenseless state of Kuwait?

Kuwait's emir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah in a televised statement called on his subjects Sunday not to surrender. "What makes our hearts filled with sadness is that the source of this unjustified aggression was not an enemy, but came from a brother and a close neighbor to whom we have lent our support during his time of difficulty," he said.

Though Shaykh Jabir said nothing about the blind faith he had in the U.S. and how he believed that by having the shadow of the U.S. eagle over his head he felt safe and secure, but it is anyone's guess that the Kuwaiti Shaykh must have been even more remorseful to learn about Washington's helplessness.

Hopefully the Arabs will realize that the Great Satan is as helpless as themselves. This truth will become tangible for the Arabs when the Saudi clan in Hijaz sooner or later suffers the fate of the al-Sabah family.

Editorial Reviews Warnings to Arabs on Saddam

NC1108085090 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 4 Aug 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Reaping the Whirlpool"]

[Text] "Surely those who disbelieve spend their wealth to hinder (people) from the way of Allah, so they shall spend it, then it shall be to them an intense regret, then they shall be overcome, and those who disbelieve shall be driven together to hell." (Qur'an 8:36).

Perhaps this verse from Sura'-e Anfal (spoils of war) was what Imam Khomeyni had in mind when he took to warning the Arab states of the Persian Gulf, in the early years of the war, against aiding Saddam. On a number of occasions he explicitly told the shaykhdoms, and it was aimed at Kuwait, that Iraq, would one day turn on them. That day came in the pre-dawn hours of Thursday. It seems that a major factor in bringing it on are the untold billions of Iraqi indebtedness to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has, as expected, requested that Iraq withdraw unconditionally to its borders. Many states preceded Iran in this action and the Western countries in particular have bombarded the air with shrill invective, dire warnings and frozen assets. Iran is better positioned to know, however, that noise and inaccessible bank accounts will not budge Iraq an inch. The knowledge that he will not face military reprisals

from his action is all the Iraqi dictator needs to achieve his objectives not only in Kuwait, but throughout the Arabian peninsula.

What are those objectives? One major goal is to clear Iraq's books of all the loans extended by both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia during the course of the Iran-Iraq War. Those instruments probably place Iraq as the leader of indebtedness in the Third World. Certainly the figure of $60b jumping across the wire services understates Iraq's position and the real number could be as high as $150b.

Be sure that the Houses of Al Sa'ud and Al Sabah are ready to write-off those sums, but for Kuwait's royal family it might already be too late. With respect to the Al Sa'ud's, it seems that Iraq is now in a position to dictate a number of terms to them, especially on oil policy.

In Tehran, despite condemnation of the invasion and a call for a return to borders, there is not much sympathy for Kuwait's predicament from the man on the street. After all, Iraqi troops still occupy Iranian territory, courtesy in part of the Al Sabah clans' money. And who can forget that it was the Kuwaiti tanker re-flagging business that brought the Americans directly into the war on Iraq's side? No, the idea of the Kuwaiti amir fleeing to Saudi Arabia does not bring tears to Iranian eyes.

The reverse might ring true in Riyadh, not out of any sense of altruism for the amir, but simply because the House of Al Sa'ud is hard-headed enough to realize that the vacuity of Arab solidarity will not keep Saddam from pressuring them. Certainly when a royal neighbor falls, it is cause for angst and people are trembling. Ba'ath Party ideology is no running dog of royal traditions; especially so when it smells blood and understands the king has feet of clay.

And what of the Americans? Puppets and allies alike should take note that Washington is without a long range view in the Middle East. The fact that the U.S. may be committed to go to war to keep a royal family in place indicates America is tied to conceptual anachronisms that will not secure Western energy supplies.

Perhaps Saddam himself is the best proof of American nonpolicy. Three years ago America was consciously blind to Saddam's war crimes and domestic human rights violations. Two years ago he was hailed as the man who stopped the Islamic Revolution. A year ago the American political establishment was grooming him as their Arab. Now their creation has broken the mold and Washington apparently is unable to respond. The political repercussions of American battlefield casualties is an imponderable George Bush will not tamper with on behalf of Kuwait. Saddam is not Manual Noriega.

It is too early to say for sure but perhaps the Al Sabah family is a thing of the past. Who can imagine in this age of democratization a king returning to his throne? American soldiers will not get him there. As for American policy blindness, West Germany, Japan, Italy and others so quick to freeze Kuwaiti assets, had better be quicker in separating their destinies from Washington's throughout the Middle East.

Editorial Calls For Collective Security Pact

NC1108103490 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 26 Jul 90 p 2

[Editorial: "A Collective Security Pact Is What the Region Needs"]

[Text] Iraqi relations with some regional countries, especially with Kuwait, has once again faced the region with a crisis whose escalation can get quite serious. Mediatory efforts by Egypt's President Husni Mubarak and others have not yet been able to alleviate the tension-laden situation. Iraq's deployment of forces in border areas with Kuwait, a tiny country with a tiny army, has indeed made the regional situation quite dangerous and complicated once again.

But in spite of all its adverse impact the new crisis has shot up oil prices just before a ministerial OPEC meet. This once again proves the point that before being an economic commodity, oil is much more political in nature.

Meanwhile Tehran is trying hard to prevent the Iraq-Kuwait crisis to creep into and plague the upcoming OPEC session in Geneva. This Iran is doing as it is well aware how adversely any political confrontation within OPEC can affect the national interests of the member nations. To infest OPEC meets with infightings over political differences has been what (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council has been regrettably doing in recent years. Iran wishes genuinely to stop this.

Another issue, much to the chagrin of the Islamic Republic, is the request made to big powers by some small Persian Gulf littoral states for military protection. This has now led to joint U.S.-UAE [United Arab Emirates] military maneuvers in the Persian Gulf.

It is very unfortunate that regional governments have not yet grasped this essential point that the Persian Gulf's security is a regional matter and has to be provided by the concerned nations in this region alone.

Nations in this part of the world should stop looking to world powers to solve their problems for them. The more foothold and influence such powers have in the region the more complicated and widespread the crisis will be.

This fresh crisis in the Persian Gulf however can lead to a noteworthy lesson as it once again signifies the importance of signing a collective security pact among the regional nations. It is only such a collective pact that can secure all the strategic national interests of regional nations.

The sooner such a pact is made, the better for the whole region and all countries in this part of the world.

UAE Delegation Arrives in Tehran 4 Sep

To Discuss Relations, Crisis

LD0409114690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] On the eve of the session of ministers of the Persian Gulf Cooperation [Council], Mr. Rashid 'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi, minister of state for foreign affairs of the UAE, arrived in Tehran at noon today at the head of a high-ranking political delegation and was welcomed at Mehrabad Airport by Mr. Velayati.

According to the Central News Unit, Mr. Al-Nu'aymi who is carrying a message from UAE president Shaykh Zayid bin Sultan Al Nuhayyan to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of our country, in an interview with our reporter described the objectives of his trip as follows: This trip is aimed at strengthening mutual relations. There will also be discussion and talks with Iranian officials about regional issues and the latest developments in the Persian Gulf. According to our reporter, this trip is seen by world political observers to be an especially important one.

Velayati Meets UAE Minister

LD0409195190 Tehran IRNA in English 1902 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sep. 4, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati discussed in detail the recent Persian Gulf developments with the United Arab Emirates Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi here today. Al-Nu'aymi, who arrived in Tehran early today, put stress on cooperation among Islamic countries, Persian Gulf littoral states in particular.

Velayati stated that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the military build-up of alien troops in the Persian Gulf "spells danger for regional security." He added that Iran as an Islamic state cares for the problems of other Muslim countries and "as a matter of fact we quite seriously following the events in the region."

"The foreign military presence in the region is not in the benefit of Persian Gulf states and Iran believes that alien countries are seeking their own ends in the region." Velayati underscored the deep and strategic cooperation among Persian Gulf states and Iran to resolve the crisis and bring back peace to the region.

Aqazadeh Says Iran To Stick to OPEC Quota

LD0409180990 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Hamedan, Sep. 4, IRNA—"Iran will stick to its production quota set by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)," said the oil minister today, and thought that because of the current situation in the Persian Gulf oil prices will not come down.

In a press conference in this western city, Gholam-Reza Aqazadeh termed it "psychological bid" Saudi Arabia's pumping of extra crude to bring down the oil prices, and added that "because of the complex situation in the region, this will not be materialized." [sentence as received]

Aqazadeh was here to inaugurate an oil products pipeline linking the industrial city of Arak (central province) to Malayer and Hamedan in the west. The project cost about 32 million dollars. The 12 inch pipeline runs for 183 kms and has a maximum daily capacity of 50,000 oil products [as received]. In the initial stages the pipeline will carry 20,000 bpd [barrels per day] of kerosene and gas oil. Aqazadeh said the drilling for gas in the Caspian Sea will continue till the depth of 6,000 metres. So far a depth of 4,219 metres has been reached, he said.

Pakistan Asks For Gulf Refugee Transit Rights

LD0409173290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] A parliamentary delegation from Pakistan which is visiting our country, led by Senator Sa'id Qader, submitted this afternoon in a meeting with Mr. Besharati, deputy foreign minister, a message from Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan addressed to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. In this meeting which reviewed the friendly relations between the two countries, the continuation of these friendly and fraternal relations was stressed. The members of the Pakistani delegation requested that the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran announce its agreement to allow Pakistani nationals in Iraq and Kuwait the right of transit through Iranian territory, through the Shalamcheh border.

Mr. Besharati, expressing his pleasure at the friendly relations existing between the two countries and expressing his happiness at the presence of the Pakistani parliamentary delegation in Tehran, expressed his hope that the Islamic Republic of Iran would provide all facilities for the transit of the nationals of various countries, especially Pakistan, through the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran as a humanitarian gesture.

Foreign Ministry Official Meets Iraqi Counterpart

NC0509091890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 5 Sep 90

[Text] The director general for political and international affairs of our country's Foreign Ministry met his Iraqi counterpart yesterday afternoon at Khosravi on the border with Iraq. According to the Central News Unit, during this meeting both sides expressed satisfaction with the understanding between the two countries, and they reviewed the ways to exchange Iranian and Iraqi POW's. They stressed the continued exchange of all the POW's until the last POW was released.

During this meeting it was agreed that a joint technical committee of the two countries would initiate work on

facilitating a swift exchange of POW's soon in the presence of the representatives of the International Red Cross Committee.

POW Exchange With Iraq Continues

900 Return 1 Sep

LD0109190790 Tehran IRNA in English 1609 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] Bakhtaran, Sep. 1, IRNA—The sixth batch of unregistered Iranian pows crossed over into their homeland and freedom through the Khosrawi border today. The group numbering 900 were released after due registration by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) which is supervising the pow swap. Iran in turn released 900 Iraqi pows today.

The fresh arrival took the number of homecoming pows past the 21,000 mark since the exchange began on August 17, following Saddam Husayn's acceptance of Iran's conditions for peace. According to First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati Friday, all unregistered Iranian pows are expected to be back home by September 22.

900 More 3 Sep

LD0309180790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] About 900 more unregistered released POW's entered the Islamic homeland via the Khosravi border. According to the Central News Unit, simultaneously with the victorious return of the POW's which took place amidst the enthusiastic welcome of the frontier guards of the Islamic homeland, 900 Iraqi POW's were also delivered to the officials of that country on the Khosravi border.

Larijani Assesses Iraqi Peace Proposal

NC3108204790 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 16 Aug 90 p 16

["Weekly Political Newsletter" by Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani, adviser to the Iranian Foreign Ministry: "Peace"]

[Text] 1. The announcement by the Iraqi president yesterday removed the most important obstacle to the establishment of peace between the two countries. Through this announcement, Iraq accepted the 1975 accord demarcating the two countries' maritime border in the Arvand River [Shatt al-'Arab] and establishing their rights to this waterway and said it would begin withdrawing from territory it occupies and also release prisoners of war in the shortest time possible (beginning tomorrow).

This will spectacularly accelerate the peace process between Iran and Iraq, God willing. This is undoubtedly one of the most important events for our nation, the region, and the world.

2. The situation indicates that Iraq achieved nothing by its bloody and devastating aggression against Iran. However, the Iranian nation reaped benefits from the blood of its martyrs in the form of the consolidation of its national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and, most important of all, it sees the overt affirmation of its Islamic pride and honor.

3. The Iraqi Government stated in its letter that it wishes to release the large segment of its Armed Forces which are engaged on its eastern borders, and to deploy them elsewhere in a more extensive operation. Undoubtedly, this will have an important effect in augmenting the troop deployment of the Iraqi Armed Forces. I am not saying that they will be sent to the scene of battle, but the fact that these forces are already trained is important in itself.

Will Iraq become involved in a battle over Kuwait with the forces poised against it?

One can say that Iraq's objectives and their possible results are so unclear that anything is possible. Iraq can, however, definitely expect to achieve results in proportion to its determination.

4. The present situation has once again revealed the key role of Iran in one of the most important regions of the world. It can even be said that those who were endeavoring to weaken Islamic Iran's position have dealt a fatal blow to the security and peace of the region and therefore they should redress this situation by assisting in returning peace to the region.

It has been proved that aggression or a massive onslaught by troops cannot restore tranquillity and security to this richly endowed region. Therefore, one must give this situation careful thought so that the wealth of this rich region is not pillaged and all countries are able to exist in an atmosphere of peace and mutual understanding under the natural protection and support of the regional countries.

Mobilization Forces Reorganization Scheduled

LD0409215790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] The new and independent organization of the 20-million strong army, called the Basij Resistance Force [Niru-ye Moqavemat-e Basij], will start its operation as of 23 September. According to an IRNA report, the new Basij organization is to be set up by the order of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i leader of the revolution and commander-in-chief of the forces. It is being set up following separation of the zonal bases of the Basij force of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] from the brigades and divisions of the IRGC.

Prior to that order Basij resistance forces in all bases of the IRGC ground forces throughout the country were administered by the central IRGC headquarters. Now that the said force has been made independent, the IRGC will henceforth possess a fourth force.

Mr. 'Alireza Afshar, commander of the Basij Resistance Force, who is in Mashhad to organize the preliminary seminar on setting up the Basij Resistance Force, was interviewed on Tuesday by reporters and stressed that the establishment of the 20-million strong army was one of the most important missions of the IRGC.

Guard Corps Naval Exercise Ends in Gulf

LD0209054590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] In the presence of the supreme commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], the readiness and battle capability maneuvers of district one of the IRGC Navy were carried out in the waters of the Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman. The following is a report on the subject:

[Unidentified correspondent] Readiness and battle capability exercises of IRGC's District one navy were successfully held in the waters of the Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman today in the presence of the IRGC's supreme commander. During the exercises, speedboats and gunboats of the IRGC District One Navy displayed their complete readiness in precise and rapid use of state-of-the-art defensive-offensive systems. IRGC Supreme Commander Mr. Mohsen Reza'i, having viewed the exercises, inspected the various units of District One accompanied by IRGC's navy commander and reviewed the readiness, capabilities, and facilities of the units. He also met representative of the Vali-ye Faqih [vice regency of the supreme jurisconsult] in Hormozgan province and Bandar 'Abbas Friday prayer leader Hojjat ol-Eslam Val Moslemin Ahmadi, and discussed the capabilities and disposition of the brave defendants of the maritime borders of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Paper Explains Role of National Security Council

NC0309154590 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 14 Aug 90 pp 1, 12

[Mohammad Sarafraz editorial: "The Supreme National Security Council: The Final Say"]

[Text] Each powerful system in the world today has a high-level decisionmaking center which has "the last say" because its decisions are linked with national interests and national security. Once these decisions are made public, no one has the right to oppose them. The best tool to implement this policy is the mass media, which should also refrain from publishing items that are contrary to the country's national interests.

The Supreme National Security Council was set up after the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran was revised. The decisions adopted by this council become effective after they are endorsed by the esteemed leadership. The duties of this council are as follows:

1. Defining the country's defense and security policies within the framework of the country's general policy which is delineated by the esteemed leadership;

2. Coordinating the political, information, social, cultural, and economic activities with overall defense and security measures; and

3. Tapping the country's material and moral potential in order to confront domestic and foreign threats.

In view of the fact that the heads of the three branches and the representatives of the leadership are members of the Supreme National Security Council, this council is the country's highest legal and official body as far as ensuring national interests and safeguarding the Islamic revolution and the country's territorial integrity are concerned. Therefore, when the Supreme National Security Council makes a decision, this decision cannot be challenged and must be implemented by everyone.

If there are those who want to question the decisions by this important and sensitive decisionmaking center because of their group's intentions and motives, then they will definitely be acting in a way that is contrary to the country's national interests and benefits.

If the Supreme National Security Council is to make decisions concerning war and peace or the establishment or severence of relations with various countries only to become the target of venomous accusations by a group which considers these decisions not to its taste, then what will happen? Can people who do such things claim that they have the country's interests in mind?

Each system and country needs a decisionmaking body which will have the last say. Otherwise, chaos will rule and each decision will be challenged by an opposing view, a doubt, and so on. If this happens, then we will be unable to safeguard the people's and the country's interests in this turbulent world and we will not be able to display grandeur, wisdom, and expediency.

All those who believe in the grandeur of the Islamic system under the critical conditions facing countries today must definitely refrain from venomous attacks on the decisions by the system and not oppose a final decision reached on a topic.

Even in a country like America where pressure groups operate legally, no attempt is made against the country's national interests and parties carry out their freedom of activity within a definite framework.

Last Thursday the Unity Consolidation Group issued a statement in response to a decision by the Supreme National Security Council on overcoming legal problems in reestablishing relations with Britain. In part of the statement we read:

"The recent stand by the British foreign secretary is not something which we can take as a basis to remove the existing obstacles to relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the British Government. Until the Majlis' decision on this matter is fulfilled, something we believe should be determined legally by the body that was assigned to do so, relations with the British regime are not legally justified."

In another part of the statement we read: "In our opinion, this stand (the stand of the Supreme National Security Council) is not a revolutionary stand. It is unacceptable as, from both the legal and juridical point of view, the Thatcher government has not officially and correctly responded to the decision by the Majles."

Although such statements do not affect the implementation of the Supreme National Security Council's decision, because of the significance of the main issue, it is necessary to state the following points:

1. This decision was made on the basis of the view of high-ranking officials of the system and was endorsed by the esteemed leadership. Therefore, it is quite wrong to consider it as illegal both from the shariah [Islamic law] and legal angle and from the angle of national interests. Furthermore, is it fair to describe this decision as counterrevolutionary?!

If something is endorsed by the velayat-e faqih [vice regency of the supreme jurisconsult], (even if a special body was assigned to see to the fulfillment of the Majles decision), then this becomes law and should be implemented as being above common laws and tantamount to the final discernment of an expediency.

As for national expediency, questioning the decisions by the highest decisionmaking center of the country is contrary to the country's interests and is tantamount to the abuse of political freedoms.

2. The Majles speaker, as a member of the Supreme National Security Council, expressed his view that the British Government's response to the Majles decision was sufficient. The Majles speaker is not a member of the council simply because he is who he is. He is a member because of his juridical and legal position in the Majles, and as it was announced this decision was adopted unanimously.

3. Since the Supreme National Security Council is a new institution in the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, it is possible that some may have unknowingly tried to violate its decisions. In the future, those who publish things out of sympathy should be warned not to sacrifice national interests for group interests and not to resort to such acts in order to gain a revolutionary! identity.

This warning takes on greater significance under the current extremely sensitive conditions when the region faces unpredictable events, because the importance of protecting the overall interests of a devoted nation and an Islamic country—interests which the Supreme National Security Council was created to determine—in times of crisis is something which is clear to everyone.

Talks With USSR on Border Trade Continue

LD0409205590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] The ways and means for border crossings between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the USSR were this morning discussed at a meeting in the presence of the deputy governor general of Gilan Province for political and security affairs as well as the governors and border guards commanders [marzbanan] of Soviet Lankoran and Iran's Astara. The meeting was held at the building of the Gilan governorate general.

According to the report of the Central News Unit for Rasht, at the said meeting the implementation of the 17-article protocol on border crossings between the two countries was surveyed. Then the deputy governor general of Gilan for political and security affairs thanked the Muslim people of the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan for their cooperation and comprehensive help to the quake victims of Gilan.

The same report states that the director of commerce of the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan and directors of commerce in the towns of Baku, Lankoran, and Soviet Astara as well as the governor of Talesh [in Iran] held a meeting this morning in which the deputy governor general for planning of Gilan was present. At that meeting the ways and means of border trade between the two countries were discussed.

Auto, Oil Cooperation Discussed With France

LD0109164390 Tehran IRNA in English 1432 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sep. 1, IRNA—Deputy Heavy Industries Minister for International Affairs Abdol Rahim Govahi discussed cooperation in auto manufacturing and oil industry with French Minister of Industry and Territorial Development Roger Fauroux in Paris today.

Govahi, on behalf of the Iranian minister of industries invited Fauroux to visit Iran during the 16th Tehran International Trade Exhibition (Oct. 2-10). The latter accepted the invitation.

Rafsanjani Chairs Economic Council 3 Sep

LD0409084890 Tehran IRNA in English 0759 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 4, IRNA—The Economic Council in a session here Monday presided over by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani discussed the preliminaries of the coming Iranian year's (21 March 1991-20 March 1992) budget. The Council laid special emphasis on boosting production and improving quality of products.

The country's next year's budget plan is expected to be submitted to the Majles on December 6. The session also discussed transfer of technology in connection with construction of power plants in the country and commissioned the ministries of energy, heavy industries and industry to take the necessary steps in this regard.

***Obstacles Bar Normalization of UK Relations**

90AS0345M London KEYHAN in Persian
9 Aug 90 pp 1, 11

[Text] Although Sunday this week the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY officially declared its willingness to renew relations with the government of England, a spokesman for the English Foreign Ministry told KEYHAN in an interview, "There are still many obstacles to improving relations between the two sides."

The spokesman for the English Foreign Ministry said it would have been better if the government of the Islamic Republic had expressed its interest to the British Interests Office in Tehran instead of through its news agency.

This spokesman said: "We are waiting for a real gesture of goodwill from Iranian officials."

The spokesman for the English Foreign Ministry was asked what goodwill gesture the English government expects from officials of the Islamic Republic and what were the obstacles he referred to. He said:

- The release of Roger Cooper, who is in Evin prison.
- The release of the hostages.

Concerning the matter of Salman Rushdie, the English Foreign Ministry said that since it did not yet have the official text of the remarks of the officials of the Islamic Republic, it could not comment on this matter.

Interest on the part of the Islamic Republic regime in renewing political relations with England, which were cut in February 1989 following Ayatollah Khomeyni's decree to kill Salman Rushdie, was shown Saturday this week in a brief report from the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY.

This expression of interest occurred suddenly at a time when no official of the British government, including that country's Foreign Ministry, had taken a new position on Salman Rushdie and the book *The Satanic Verses*. The reason the Islamic Republic cut its political ties with the government of England was a law passed in the Majles which warned that if the government of England did not stop the publication of *The Satanic Verses* and condemn its author within one week, the government of the Islamic Republic would be required to cut its political and economic relations with Britain. Since the government of England insisted on its position against the Islamic Republic, relations between the two countries were cut a year and a half ago.

Saturday this week, while the Middle East was in a complete state of unrest because of Iraq's attack on Kuwait, Musavi [name as published], the Islamic Republic Foreign Ministry's Western Europe director-general, told the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY, "On Saturday at a meeting of the National Security Council chaired by Hashemi-Rafsanjani and attended by Sheykh Mehdi Karrubi, chief of the legislative power, and Sheykh Mohammad Yazdi, chief of the judiciary, the latest remarks by the English Foreign Ministry and other officials of this country were studied, and it was decided unanimously that the positions given in answer to the views of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as reflected in Majles legislation, are sufficient, and it was confirmed that the conditions of the Majles legislation have been met."

He said that since this provision removes the legal obstacles to renewing political relations with the government of England, the Foreign Ministry has been ordered to take the necessary steps to renew political relations with the government of England.

Islamic Republic Radio and the regime's other news sources declined to give any explanation concerning "the recent statements by the English Foreign Ministry" because the statements by English Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd were in no way different from his previous remarks, and they do not in any way meet the conditions of the Majles legislation of 18 months ago.

In answer to a question last Thursday from a representative of the English Parliament, Douglas Hurd said:

"England has the greatest respect for Islam, and the government of England had nothing to do with the publication of *The Satanic Verses*."

Douglas Hurd said something similar two months ago. The English foreign minister, who was then in Jeddah, said after hearing the Islamic Republic's expression of interest in improved relations with England:

"Britain has always respected and recognized Islam and Muslims, but under no circumstances is it wiling to accept the government of the Islamic Republic's warnings and threats concerning Salman Rushdie." In his remarks, Douglas Hurd declined to condemn Salman Rushdie.

Reacting to Musavian's remarks, Mrs. Thatcher also announced in an interview with the BBC: "It appears that a new olive branch is being offered to us by the Iranians. Despite our deep respect for Islam, we cannot undermine freedom of expression for the people of this nation." Mrs. Thatcher was also unwilling to condemn Salman Rushdie. She said: "Christians and Muslims hate having their sacred values insulted, but there is no doubt that this religion can continue its life despite expressions of opinion by some people who say such things for propaganda and because of their disinterest in religion."

The Majles legislation of 18 months ago clearly demands that the government of England condemn *The Satanic Verses* and its author, and that it prevent the sale of this infidel book. However, no English official has yet said a word in condemnation of Salman Rushdie or his book, and nothing has been done to prevent the sale of *The Satanic Verses*.

Political circles believe the Islamic Republic regime's sudden expression of interest in improving political

relations with England is due to the turmoil in the region caused by the Iraqi attack on Kuwait. In its Sunday edition the INDEPENDENT wrote: There is not the slightest doubt that the Islamic Republic regime's interest in reestablishing political relations with Britain was expressed under the influence of the events of the last few days.

The INDEPENDENT wrote that the government of England's reaction to the Islamic Republic's interest in renewing relations has been cool and indifferent.

*'Security Belt' Maintained Around Border

90AS0345H London KEYHAN in Persian 9 Aug 90 p 4

[Text] To prevent the widespread activities of smugglers and to improve the capability of anti-smuggling operations, the gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic has brought 90 percent of the nation's land and sea borders into a security and protective network. The project for this security network, which is called "border battalions," was implemented several years ago, and according to a deputy of the gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic, guard stations cover 95 percent of the border, border companies cover 99 percent, and border battalions are stationed on 100 percent of the security belt. The deputy of the gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic recently told reporters that the results of measures taken on the security belt along the nation's borders include the confiscation of significant quantities of customs goods, smoking materials, sound equipment, carpets, foreign exchange, gold, silver, and smuggled coins being brought into or out of the country, an increased ability to fight narcotics smuggling up to the 70 percent level, and the control of unauthorized entry and departure through the nation's borders by individuals.

The deputy of the gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic announced that last year nine tons of narcotics were confiscated from smugglers and in this regard more than 4,500 persons were arrested and charged. During his press conference, this official said: In the Five-Year Plan, with regard to the construction and expansion of judicial stations, in every village at least one station will be built and 550 million tomans have been allocated to expand and rebuild the stations inside the country and at its borders and to build organizational houses.

*Commercial Trade With Italy Expands

90AS0345I London KEYHAN in Persian 9 Aug 90 p 4

[Text] In exporting 1.45 million tons of crude oil to Italy, in the first three months of the current year the Islamic Republic supplied this country with more than 10 percent of the crude oil it needs. A study of the figures on Iran's crude oil exports to Italy shows that in the first three months of the current year this country increased its crude oil imports from the Islamic Republic 37 percent over the same period last year.

According to a report from Rome, recently the Islamic Republic's Ministry of Mines and Metals sent an economic delegation to Italy to take the first steps in preparing to implement industrial and mining projects with the participation of Italian companies. 'Ali Shams-Ardekani, the regime's deputy minister of mines and metals, supervised the economic delegation sent by the Islamic Republic to Italy. After a six-day stay in Rome and visits with Italian commercial officials, this delegation returned to Iran in the middle of last week.

Economic experts have mentioned studying ways to expand existing relations, preparing to grant concessions for exploiting Iran's mines, and expanding industrial cooperation between the two nations as the main objectives in sending the Iranian delegation to Italy. According to a Milan commercial publication, in the next few years the Italian government and several contractor companies will assist the Islamic Republic in the production of food, mining, exploration and utilization of oil and gas resources, constructing docks and port facilities, fishing, foundry industries, producing industrial and agricultural machinery, and other related matters.

In its detailed report on the talks between officials of the Islamic Republic and Italy's economic officials, this commercial publication noted that the delegation sent from the Islamic Republic primarily sought to expand its credit for importing goods and substances from Italy. The Italian Export Guarantee Bank intends to increase credits for exporting goods and services to the Islamic Republic, and in so doing it will be able to increase exports of industrial products, food, and semi-industrial machinery to this country.

As the Islamic Republic's economic delegation was leaving for Tehran, Iran and Italy signed an agreement to increase the weekly flights from Italy to Tehran.

This agreement also provided for an increase in permits for Iranian trucks to come and go in Italy.

Italy now has one direct flight to Iran per week, and a second flight will begin soon.

There were 500 permits issued to Iranian trucks to operate in Italy, and this figure is to increase to 1,000 by 1990. The number of permits issued to Iranian trucks will increase to 2,000 by 1991, and increases for subsequent years will be studied during meetings of the joint transportation commission for the two countries, held alternately each year in Tehran and Rome.

*Central Bank Governor Views Foreign Borrowing

90AS0345J London KEYHAN in Persian 9 Aug 90 p 4

[Text] Although economic officials of Tehran's Islamic regime have announced repeatedly in recent years that they will never borrow from foreign sources, the governor of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic told participants at a seminar at the Money and Banking Research Institute that under the Five-Year Plan it is

expected that we will make use of foreign resources. Addressing the Islamic Republic's banking experts, this official stated clearly: We intend to obtain it from sources, institutions, or countries that are in our interest. He added: We intend to use $17.5 billion from foreign sources for various projects.

During his talk, Dr. 'Adeli, governor of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic, discussed the activities of the International Monetary Fund. He said that this fund ought to be regarded as a place to exchange views and make decisions about the nations of the world. In part of his talk, this official said that the International Monetary Fund is the most important of all existing organizations, and it has the greatest effect on the individual economies of the nations of the world.

In his talk, the governor of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic said: The Budget Law requires us to take out loans, and we will do this wherever it is less expensive or wherever the conditions are easier. We do not know which institution to select. Some say they are willing. We have not set an objective where to obtain the loans. If we find a good use capability, we will take advantage of it.

This official discussed requesting loans from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. He said: We have not requested loans from any institution, neither the International Monetary Fund nor the World Bank, nor have we had negotiations in this matter.

Continuing, 'Adeli added: We have spoken with the World Bank concerning some projects. The World Bank is different from the International Monetary Fund. There has been a series of general discussions about the Five-year Plan and projects, but no loan has been requested.

The governor of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic told participants at the Money and Banking Research Institute seminar: The views that the International Monetary Fund gives for these nations are intended to enable these countries to repay the loans they obtain. It does not give political opinions. For example, it gives producing foundations to the private sector to increase efficiency. The advice of the International Monetary Fund is economic theory, either that interest rates and bank lending rates be in line with the rate of inflation, or it advises that efforts be made to export with regard to production and commerce, it advises that you have no budget deficit, which is basically the advice of economic textbooks.

Nepal & Bhutan

10,000 March in Anti-Government Protest 31 Aug

BK0109075690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1715 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Aug 31 (AFP)—More than 10,000 people joined a protest march in Kathmandu Friday, shouting anti-government and anti-India slogans, as several hundred Nepalese riot police stood by. Nepalese Communist Party activists, workers, peasants and college students took part in the march round the city, shouting slogans like "Hang the facist Panchayat leaders" and "Let sovereignty be transfered to the public."

Helmeted riot police were seen lining the route of the march leading to the royal palace and other public buildings, but they did not interfere in the demonstration. The protestors also demanded the cancellation of a joint declaration made in New Delhi on 10 June by the prime ministers of Nepal and India normalizing ties between the two countries. Protestors said the accord violated Nepal's economic and political interests.

Later the demonstrators held a public meeting in the centre of Kathmandu under the chairmanship of Nara Bahadur Karmacharya, one of the leaders of the Nepalese Communist Party. Together with other communist leaders, he strongly criticised Nepal's interim government for its failure to control runaway inflation and for agreeing to the joint declaration. The interim government took power in April amid massive protests after three decades of rule under the partyless Panchayat system.

The speakers warned of serious consequences if sovereignty was not transferred from the king to the people. The protest march came just 48 hours before the planned submission of a new draft constitution to King Birenda by the chairman of the Constitution Recommendation Commission, Biswo Nath Upadhyay. Political obsevers here believe the demonstration was meant to serve as a warning to the panel and the king that the new constitution must fulfill the aspirations of the people.

King, Prime Minister To Finalize Constitution

Royal Authority To Decrease

BK0209092490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0834 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Sept 2 (AFP)—Nepal's King Birendra will hold talks with Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai on Monday to put the final touches on a constitution that will reduce the powerful monarchy to figurehead status, a high-placed source said. The main purpose of the talks will be to define the ceremonial order of precedence of members of the royal family, the source said.

The chairman of the Constitution Recommendation Commission, Biswonath Upadhyay, announced Sunday that the draft of the new constitution had been finished. It would drastically curtail the "executive, judicial and legislative authority of the crown of Nepal," said Mr. Upadhyay, who will also attend the meeting at the royal palace.

King Birendra is among the world's most powerful reigning monarchs, enjoying tremendous powers over all

executive, legislative and judicial bodies. The constitution, which would make the king a constitutional monarch within a multiparty parliamentary system, will be formally delivered to him on Thursday in a simple ceremony attended by ministers, sources said.

The document will be implemented after the king affixes his royal seal, they added. Sovereignty will then be vested in the people, leaving the king a figurehead and supreme commander-in-chief of the Royal Army. The military will actually be controlled by the National Defence Council headed by the prime minister, the sources said.

The high-placed source, who asked not to be identified, said the main purpose of Monday's talks was "to define the order of precedence of the reigning monarch's brothers, sisters and other close relatives during official ceremonies." The constitution has specifically defined the mother, sons and daughters of the monarch as the royal family and also sets down their privileges, the source said.

The document was to have been delivered to the king on Sunday but has been delayed for 96 hours for an auspicious time according to Hindu tradition and customs, the source said. The king delegated executive and legislative powers to an interim multiparty government that took power after a seven-week democracy movement launched February 18.

Presentation Feared Delayed

BK0409162490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1557 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Sept 4 (AFP)—The presentation to the king of Nepal's newly drafted constitution might be delayed for several days because unscrupulous palace officials were trying to protect the royal family, a source said Tuesday. The new constitution, finished last week, limits the power of King Birendra and shifts sovereignty from the monarchy to the public.

It was drafted by the Constitutional Recommendation Commission (CRC) and was to be presented to the king this week, possibly on Thursday [6 September], said the CRC source who did not want to be identified. Royal palace officials were delaying presentation of the new constitution while they sought to clarify the positions of the monarch's brothers and sisters, and their order of presidence at official functions, the source said. The royal palace authorities were trying to maintain the royal family as privileged persons to be protected by law, the CRC source said.

The constitution specifically says that the queen and the reigning monarch's sons and daughters would get state gratuity and would be protected by the law. In addition, it states that the personal conduct of the royal family is not to be debated at parliament, sources said. If the constitution is not presented on Thursday, Nepal's communist parties were likely to demonstrate, impartial political observers here said.

The state-run Nepal television had said the king would meet Monday with the Prime Minister and CRC Chairman Diswo Nath Upadhyay at the royal palace to give final touches to the constitution. But on Monday it announced the extension of meeting until Thursday without explaining whether the draft constitution would be delivered that day.

Soviet Deputy Minister Meets With Premier

BK0109061190 Hong Kong AFP in English 0115 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Aug 31 (AFP)—Visiting Soviet Deputy Minister for Civil Aviation Viktor Gorlov called on Nepal's Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai at his office Friday, officials said. Mr. Gorlov was accompanied by Soviet Ambassador to Nepal K.N. Kulmatov, the officials said, declining to give details of the meeting.

Mr. Gorlov arrived here on August 25 heading a 14 member delegation on the maiden flight to this landlocked kingdom of the Soviet national airline, Aeroflot. The just inaugurated weekly flight of Aeroflot to Kathmandu is expected to help develop bilateral trade and Nepal's tourism to Europe, officials said.

Pakistan

Embassy in Kuwait To Close 'Temporarily'

BK0409164290 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Pakistan has decided to temporarily close its embassy in Kuwait with immediate effect. The foreign office in Islamabad today said that the decision has been taken in view of the difficult conditions prevailing in Kuwait. Pakistan's ambassador in Kuwait will have to continuously remain there along with a skeleton staff to assist Pakistani nationals.

1,000 More Citizens Evacuated From Gulf 31 Aug

BK3108113690 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] PIA [Pakistan International Airlines] today transported about 1,000 Pakistani nationals back home from Riyadh and Amman by four special flights. They had reached the Saudi and Jordanian capitals from Kuwait and Iraq.

Meanwhile, a Pakistan National Shipping Corporation vessel has gone to the Jordanian port of Aqaba to bring back home stranded Pakistanis. It has the capacity for about 3,000 passengers.

Official Says Elections Set for 24, 27 Oct

BK0509112290 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 5 Sep 90

[Text] The schedule for the forthcoming elections is being announced tomorrow. The polling for National Assembly will be held on the 24th and for provincial assemblies on the 27th of the next month. The chief election commissioner told Radio Pakistan's Lahore representative today that he would announce the schedule tomorrow morning from Lahore.

PPP Advises Government on Election Process

BK0509030290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 Sep 90

[Text] A meeting of the Central Executive Committee of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] in Karachi yesterday demanded that the caretaker government pay attention to matters relating to the election schedule and the conduct of elections and desist from taking actions that might affect the election process.

Qayyum Nizami, the PPP's central information secretary, told newsmen that the PPP, the Tehrik-i-Istiqlal, and the Pakistan Muslim League-Qasim group are forging an electoral alliance and that dialogue is continuing with other political groups in this connection.

Additional Secretaries Head Several Ministries

BK0509105190 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 5 Sep 90 pp 1, 6

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 4—For the first time in the bureaucratic history of Pakistan a large number of federal ministries and divisions are headed by Additional Secretaries. This unusual phenomenon has developed recently, only after the new government took over a month ago.

A Federal Ministry is usually headed by an officer of Grade-22. In rare circumstances or as a stopgap measure a Grade-21 officer is made Additional Secretary In-Charge of the Ministry. With the induction of the new government this exception has almost become a rule. While the senior officers of Grade-22 (Secretary) are being banished to insignificant posts the Additonal Secretaries have been elevated to important positions without being promoted to the higher grade.

The shifting of Federal Secretaries with each change of government has become a norm in Pakistan. Ms Bhutto not only shifted and shuffled them immediately after taking over as Prime Minister but inducted a few Secretaries on contract from outside the civil service. She did not sack anybody like her father did in the 70s but instead discovered a contemptuous way of getting rid of the uncooperative bureaucrats—uncooperative meant the stickler of rules. A whole lot, about 80, were made OSDs (Officers on Special Duty), a cuphemism for indefinite quarantine. These OSDs remained on the government roll, drawing salaries but performing no duties at all.

The Jatoi Government has neither sacked an officer nor used the ploy of OSD to get rid of an officer. Even those Secretaries who had foolishly attempted to be more loyal than the king by issuing public statements against the COP [Combined Opposition Parties] and its leaders have been treated civilly. They have been quietly moved to insignificant posts without hurting their self-respect.

Many of the Additional Secretaries who have been made in-charge of ministries are quite senior and in some cases were deprived of their due promotion for political or other reasons. It is now expected that all of them will soon be promoted to Grade-22. The names of Additional Secretaries (Grade-21) heading a ministry or a division are as follows:

A.R. Siddiqui (Establishment); Commander Nasim (Local Government); Ahmed Sadik (Kashmir & Northern Affairs); Mazhar Rafi (Information); Pervaiz Butt (Housing & Works); Muzaffar Ahmed (Food & Agriculture); TZ Farooqui (Industries); Chaudhry Shaukat (Election Commission); Aslam Iqbal (Petroleum); Mian Qayyum (Narcotics); K.A. Khurshid (Railways).

Industries Minister Submits to Accountability

BK0409161990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Federal Minister for Industries Chaudhary Shujat Hussain has submitted himself to the process of accountability. In a letter to President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, he said if a prima facie case has been made against him, it should be referred to the special courts for action according to law. Speaking at a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon, the federal minister distributed copies of his letter to the president. He alleged that the former prime minister, Benazir Bhutto, has been levelling fictitious and baseless allegations against him, but she could not provide any evidence against him about misuse of his post or power despite complete and strenuous investigation during her 20 months of tenure.

FIA Probes Bhutto Payment to U.S. Lobbyist

BK0309130890 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 3 Sep 90 pp 1, 10

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 2—The FIA [Federal Investigation Agency] is reported to have started investigations against payment of a huge sum of money by the government of Benazir Bhutto to Mark Seigel, [name as published] a lobbyist in US. The firm owned by Siegel is notoriously known as a lobbyist for Zionists.

Mr Siegel was appointed as lobbyist for the government by the former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto over-ruling the remarks submitted by the two Ambassadors of Pakistan in the United States against this firm. During investigations, it has been revealed that Mr. Jamshed

Marker, the then Pakistan Ambassador to US protested against the selection of Mark Siegel on the grounds that he was a controversial figure, a noted Zionist and was working in close liaison with Israel. Mr. Jamshed Marker has also informed the Benazir Government that some time back, Mark Siegel had resigned from the post of Deputy Under-Secretary under President Carter's Administration on the grounds that President Carter was not looking after the interests of Israel in a suitable manner. He also charged President Carter for supply of arms to Saudi Arabia.

The Pakistan Ambassador had also advised the Government of Pakistan that instead of Mark Siegel, another firm named as Dennis Neil and Company should continue to work as a lobbyist for Pakistan. This firm was already on pool and was selected by the Government after due consideration. However, the objections of former Pakistan Ambassador were totally ignored. The investigations further reveal that the decision was taken in favour of Mark Siegel at the initiative of Happy Minwala [Pakistani ambassador at large].

The appointment of Mark Siegel was also opposed on the floor of the defunct National Assembly by the Opposition leaders. The then Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, however, described the report as incorrect. However, Mark Siegel's firm was renamed in order to conceal the fact. Later, it was decided to pay 250,000 dollar annually to the new firm named as International Public Strategy. The Company additionally incurred a monthly expenditure of 7,000 dollars which was also paid by the Government of Pakistan.

Mark Seigel himself used to get a first class ticket for travel to Pakistan in addition to other expenses in home currency. In May 1989, the annual fee of Mark Siegel was raised to 360,000 dollar annually. This was done over and above the objections of the Foreign Office as well as the then Pakistan Ambassador to US, Air Chief Marshal Zulfiqar Ali Khan. Further investigations reveal that 50,000 dollars were also paid to Mark Seigel from PIA's [Pakistan International Airlines] budget as commission for his help and assistance in the sale of Roosevelt Hotel.

When the President dissolved the National Assembly on August 6, Mark Siegel released a pro-PPP [pro-Pakistan People's Party] statement against the dissolution order as well as the Armed Forces of Pakistan, although, he was not supposed to issue such a statement in view of his agreement with the Government of Pakistan. The Caretaker Government has now annulled the agreement and ordered a probe into the whole affair.

Lahore Court Hears Case Implicating Bhutto

BK0509104090 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 5 Sep 90 p 8

[Text] Lahore, Sept. 4—A writ petition praying for court direction for the registration of cases of high treason against former Prime Minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, and her cabinet ministers came up before a division bench of the Lahore High Court, today.

The bench comprises Justice Ehsanul Haq Chaudhry and Justice Malik Mohammad Qayyum. APP [ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN]

Court Hears Challenge to Sindh Assembly Dismissal

BK0509103890 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 5 Sep 90 p 1

[Text] Karachi, Sept 4—A division bench of the Sindh High Court today admitted for regular hearing a constitutional petition filed by former Chief Minister Sindh Aftab Shaban Mirani, challenging the dissolution of the Sindh government and assembly.

The bench comprising Chief Justice, Justice Sajjad Ali Shah, and Justice Abdul Rehman Shah, issued notice to Advocate General for Sept. 17.

Mr Mirani is being represented by former Advocate General Sindh Abdul Hafeez Lakho. APP [ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN]

Jatoi, Chinese Ambassador Discuss Bilateral Ties

BK0409030090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi has said the Sino-Pakistani relations are the best model of friendship which has stood every test of time. He made these observations while talking to Chinese Ambassador Tian Ding who called on him in Islamabad yesterday. The prime minister said China has provided valuable assistance to Pakistan in various fields for which the government and the people of Pakistan are highly grateful.

Earlier, the Chinese ambassador conveyed to the prime minister a message of good wishes from Chinese Premier Li Peng. On the forthcoming visit by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan to China, Ambassador Tian Ding said the Chinese people are eagerly looking forward to this visit.

Rebel Leader Says France Sides With USSR

BK0509100290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0932 GMT 5 Sep 90

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 5 (AFP)—A top commander of the Afghan resistance Wednesday accused France of siding with the Soviet Union on the Afghanistan issue by inviting pro-Moscow President Najibullah to Paris. Amin Wardak, a leading mujahedeen field commander, rejected in an interview here the French explanation that Mr. Najibullah had been invited to Paris by the United Nations and not the French Government.

Mr. Najibullah is currently in the French capital to attend a U.N.-sponsored conference of least developed countries, which he was scheduled to address later Wednesday. Mr. Wardak, who is visiting Pakistan, said French President Francois Mitterrand had "sacrificed

his country's historic support for the Afghan resistance on the altar of rapprochement" with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

"If France had acted honestly in this conference affair," he said, "it could have arranged with the United Natiuons to have an Afghan resistance delegation invited as well. "It is obvious that Gorbachev has asked Mitterrand to play a part in Afghanistan," he said.

He said France, after having been one of the first world powers to back the resistance at the time of the 1979 Soviet invasion, had become the only country so far to reopen its Kabul embassy after closing it, along with most western states, after the Soviets withdrew in February 1989. But despite the withdrawal, Mr. Wardak said, the Afghan problem is far from being solved.

"Unlike in Eastern Europe perestroika has changed nothing for Afghanistan," Mr. Wardak said. "Najibullah is not an elected president. He was imposed by the Soviets who are succeeding today in obtaining by diplomatic means what they failed to accomplish militarily."

Mr. Wardak has distanced himself over the past few months from the Pakistan-based rebel government-in-exile. He and another top military leader of the mujahedeen, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, have been concentrating their efforts on coordinating the activities of top rebel field commanders operating inside Afghanistan.

Six Injured in Bomb Blast Near Wazirabad

BK0209081090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Six persons were injured in a bomb blast at Kot Inayatullah Khan, 8 km away from Wazirabad. Punjab Chief Minister Ghulam Hyder Wyne expressed sorrow and anguish over the blast. In a statement, he said the saboteurs and terrorists involved in such incidents cannot escape from punishment.

Sri Lanka

Minister Leaves For Gulf To Evacuate Nationals

BK0409152290 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] The minister of labor and vocational training, G.M. Premachandra, left for the Middle East last night to draw up a program to get out Sri Lankans stranded in Iraq and Kuwait. The minister will have talks with Iraqi authorities. Another objective of his visit is to look into the possibility of providing alternative employment to the Sri Lankans in Arab countries which are not involved in the gulf crisis. Mr. Premachandra is undertaking the tour on the special instructions of the president.

The International Organization for Migration [IMC] has agreed to provide eight flights for the return of Sri Lankans stranded in Kuwait and Iraq. During the last few days several flights carrying stranded Sri Lankans arrived in the island. The ministry has made arrangements to provide returnees transport facilities to their homes. The chairman of the Foreign Employment Bureau, (David Sarisa) is accompanying the minister. The first batch [word as heard] of the flights organized by the ICM will arrive at the Katunayake International Airport around 0200 today.

Spokesman Clarifies Tea Shipment to Iraq

BK0509040490 London BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 5 Sep 90

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] A United States Navy ship has taken control of an Iraqi merchant vessel carrying tea from Sri Lanka to Iraq. Defense Department officials in Washington said the ship, the Zanubia, ignored a warning to turn back and was boarded in the Gulf of Oman. A senior official in Sri Lanka, Mr. Bradman Weerakoon, has repeated his country's official support for the United Nations trade sanctions against Iraq and said that the cargo of tea had left Sri Lanka before the question of food sales to Iraq had been clarified. Christopher Morris reports from Colombo:

[Begin recording] Mr. Weerakoon said Sri Lanka has already made clear that it has no intention of defying the United Nations resolution on a trade embargo. He said the ship in question had left Colombo some time ago and it was likely that the tea had been stored in an Iraqi-owned warehouse. Sri Lanka had applied for an exemption for tea exports to Iraq. The government spokesman, Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne, said last month that as a poor country Sri Lanka could not afford not to sell. But Mr. Wijeratne made clear last week that the government would respect the decision of the UN Security Council and it is now hoping to get some form of compensation for the loss of the Iraqi market. Tea is Sri Lanka's second largest net foreign exchange earner and before the crisis in the Gulf began, Iraq bought 20 percent of the total tea exports. [end recording]